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Paris, Friday, January 9, 1998

No. 35,724

U.S., Welcoming Tehran's Gesture, **Probes Potential** For Direct Talks

By Barton Gellman

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration Thursday welcomed Iran's renewed overtures to the United States and began refining a strategy for drawing the government in Tehran toward direct talks.

On the morning after President Mohammed Khatami appealed for new understanding between the two nations, the White House spokesman said President Bill Clinton "appreciates those positive remarks" and would be watching "not just what Iran says hnt what Iran does."

In an extraordinary interview televised Wednes-day night, Mr. Khatami called for wide-ranging unofficial exchanges to break down the "bulky wall of mistrust between us and the U.S. administration." implying for the first time that an informal dialogue could lead to the resumption of diplomatic ties after 18 years of unbroken hostility.

Mr. Khatami declared his solidarity with the 'essence of the American civilization" and expressed regret for the 1979 hostage-taking that consolidated the Islamic revolution.

While strongly criocal of U.S. governments, past and present, he said "there is no hostility between the

two nations" and used a cautiously worded formula to suggest that negotiations "based on mnual respect" could "lead to positive results."

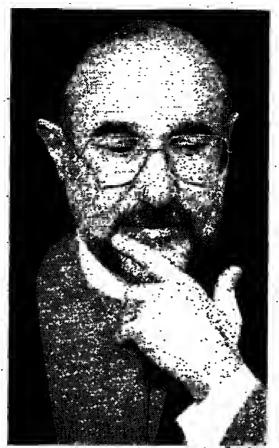
Mr. Khatami's 45-minute interview with CNN

enlarged substantially on his remarks of Dec. 14, when he expressed his hope for a "thoughtful dialogue" with "the great people of the United States."

In response, U.S. policymakers said Thursday that they wanted to probe Iran's sincerity, not merely wait

for encouraging changes in behavior.

"When Khatami was elected, I was frankly quite skeptical," said a foreign policy official. "Now I think there is quite a bit going on. The decision for the U.S. government is how to encourage change in a



Mr. Khatami called for wide-ranging exchanges to break down the "wall of mistrust."

way that doesn't compromise progress, and to the extent that there's a new coalescence around Khatami, that we don't ruin that."

In the interview, which was taped Tnesday in his office in Tehran, President Khatami called for an immediate "exchange of professors, writers, scholars, artists, journalists and tourists.

He twice asserted that Iran has "no need for political ties with the United States." but appeared to describe a map that might lead to those ties over time. New relations among intellectuals, he said, could 'prepare for a change and create an opportunity to study a new situation.

See IRAN, Page 10

A Grim Portrait Of Iran's Past Clouds Prospect For Normal Ties

By R. Jeffrey Smith Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In September 1993, the Iranian religious leader Ayatoliah Sayed Ali Khamenei instructed his senior foreign affairs officials that their 'first duty'.' was to cooperate with intelligence officers working to undermine secular and Western influence in the region and export the fundamentalist

To some diplomatic officials in the Middle East, this secret speech by Ayatollah Khamenei,

NEWS ANALYSIS

the substance of which was confirmed by three governments, was the beginning of a concerted effort to destabilize and "destroy" neighboring Gulf gov-

The officials contend that American and allied assets throughout the region were singled out for covert surveillance, radicals were brought to the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon for training in bombing and assassination techniques, and cells of sympathizers were formed in a half-dozen Middle East nacons on the model of the Hezbollah group in Lebanon.

Following the dictums of the speech, according to this view, Iranian agents unleashed violence in Bahrain in December 1994, hatched subversive plots in Egypt and eventually undertook the successful truck hombing of a U.S. military barracks in Sandi Arabia in June 1996, killing 19 American airmen.

It is a seamless and grim picture of officially sanctioned terrorism, and it still hangs over discussion about reconciliation between Iran, neighboring Gulf states and the United States. Some Gulf officials today ask, how can they conduct friendly relations with a country whose top leader ordered his

See POLICY, Page 10

By Michael Richardson President Suharto of Indonesia faced the gravest economic and political crisis of his 32-year rule Thursday as Indonesia's currency and stock market suffered declines of historic proportions. The military urged calm in the nation of 200 million people, but the gov-ernment appeared to be stunned by the severity of the economic turmoil and powerless to halt it. Some analysts said the cabinet had been weakened by divisions as powerful

Sense of Confusion

Engulfs Indonesia

Government Seems Helpless

As Economic Crisis Deepens

military and business factions tried to

influence its economic decisions and

jockey for favorable positions in any succession to Mr. Suharto.

Mr. Suharto has fashioned a highly centralized political system that depends on a strong and capable leader to

Rumors swirled around Jakarta that

Mr. Suharto, who is 76 and widely con-

sidered to be in declining health, would

not seek re-election for a seventh five-

"For the first time in three decades,

there is a very real possibility that the

head of government could change in the

next 12 months," said Bruce Gale, re-

ional manager of Political & Economic

Risk Consultancy. That could lead, he

said, to "important structural adjust-

ments in the nation's political and eco-

The rupiah lost 12 percent of its value Thursday, with the dollar rising in New York to 9,400 rupiah, from 8,375 on Wednesday, while the Jakarta composite index fell 12 percent, to 347.11.

Traders said shoppers were franti-cally snapping up goods in the capital and number of other cities.

the head of the sociopolitical affairs division of the armed forces, told people to "have faith that the government is

trying its best to handle the crisis," the

official Antara oews agency reported.

said publicly in recent days that they

expect 2 million people may soon lose

their jobs, and they have vowed to sup-

that a group of retired Indonesian army

generals, politicians and other public figures wanted Mr. Subarto to step down

In the past few days, the head of In-

donesia's second-largest Islamic orga-nization and a number of student bodies

have also called on the country's leg-islative body, the People's Consultative

Assembly, not to nominate Mr. Suharto for president when it meets in March.

spite the increasing public calls for him

See INDONESIA, Page 4

New York Thursday © 4 P.M. previous place

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Thursday close

Thursday 9 4 P.M. previous do

But diplomats in Jakarta said that de-

because of his age and poor health.

Meanwhile, the Jakarta Post reported

Indonesian military authorities have

Lieutenant General Yunus Yosfiah

old it all together.

year term in March.

nomic systems."

press protests.

What's in Mr. Suharto's future?

Thailand Appeals to G-7 for Help

No Letup in Asia Chaos; Rupiah Falls Nearly 20%

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Stock markets and currencies fell sharply once again across Asia on Thursday, dragged down hy financial turnoil and political uncertainty in Indonesia, where the rupiah lost nearly 20 percent of its value in a matter of hours.

Thailand's finance minister warned that the region's governments no longer had any hope of restoring confidence in their currencies by themselves and he issued an urgent appeal for assistance to the world's wealthiest nations, the

on-

ing

Group of Seven. Criticism by the United States and the International Monetary Fund that Indonesia was not serious about economic reforms sent the rupiah into a free fall that briefly reached as low as 10,000 rupiah per dollar and drove Jakarta stocks down 12 percent. Just six months ago, the currency traded at 2,500 rupiah per dollar, and it has lost 42 percent of its value in the first few days of 1998.

With currency reserves in the region depleted and strict International Monetary Fund requirements not to close off markets, analysts and traders said there was now very little officials could do to prevent their currencies from falling.

"Further cooperation from the major countries of the world would calm down the situation, which now is driven by sentiment more than by economic fun-damentals," said Thailand's finance minister, Tarrin Nimmanhaeminda. Every country is trying to help themselves, but the rapidity of the events make it very difficult to manage on an individual country level."

See ASIA, Page 15

West Will Approach Algeria Over Massacres

By Charles Trueheart Washington Post Service

PARIS — As nearly daily massacres continue to add to the count of murdered civilians in Algeria — about a thousand people have died in the past 10 days — Western nations are beginning to gear up their diplomatic machinery to respond to public revulsion at the un-checked terror.

On Thursday, the 15 countries of the European Union decided unanimously to dispatch a delegation to Algeria to explore with the military-backed govern-

ively as the murder in Algeria takes place," said the German foreign minister, Klans Kinkel.

[The Algerian foreign minister. Ahmed Attaf, said Thursday that his gov-ernment welcomed a fact-finding EU mission as long as it planned to confront "terrorism," Reuters reported.

The British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said in a statement that the EU delegation would comprise representa-tives from Britain, which took over the

ment ways to end the violence that has rotating EU presidency on Jan. 1; from to make clear to the Algerian government up to 80,000 lives since 1992.

"We cannot and must not watch pass-half of 1996, and from Austria, which security situation in Algeria and our de-

will take over the presidency July 1.

[A Foreign Office spokesman said it was not yet clear when the visit by EU officials from the three countries would

take place.

["We now have agreement in principle with our EU partners that a troika mission at official level should visit Algeria," Mr. Cook said. "This is an important initial step which will help the EU get a clearer picture of the situation on the ground. It will also enable the EU

sire to offer humanitarian assistance.

The Canadian government, meanwhile, said Thursday that a senior diplomat. Claude Laverdure, would go to Algiers in the next few days to evaluate the situation. Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy underscored his concern about the killings and "reiterated to the relevant authorities the need for greater transparency" -

See ALGERIA, Page 10

AGENDA

240 Years in Jail for Trade Center Blast

Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, convicted of of it," Mr. Yousef said. "I support masterminding the 1993 World Trade terrorism." Center blast, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole. Judge Kevin Duffy of U.S. District Court said Mr. Yousef would spend the

rest of his life in solitary confinement. He was sentenced to a total of 240 years. Judge Duffy called Mr. Yousef "a follower of death and destruction," saying: "It was your god, your master,

Yes, I am a terrorist and am proud

Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber suspect accused of a string of bomb-

ings that killed three people, again dis-

rupted the opening of his trial in Sacramento, California, as he proposed

Thursday to serve as his own attorney. Mr. Kaczynski's request, an-

nounced by his defense lawyer, Judy

Clarke, followed a week of wrangling

over how he would be represented in

the case and put the trial on hold again as his lawyers and Judge Garland Bur-

rell discussed what the oext move

Saying that a publisher might be "perverse enough to buy your story," Judge Duffy also fined Mr. Yousef \$4.5 million and ordered him to pay \$250 million in danages to ensure that any gain would go to his victims.

Six people were killed and about 1,000 wounded in the February 1993 World Trade Center hlast. In November, he was found guilty on 11 counts in connection with the blast. Page 10.

Ms. Clarke said the mental illness

plications of the request.

Mr. Kaczynski, 55, has pleaded not

guilty to charges that he carried out four

of the 16 bomhings attributed to the

Unabomber, killing two Sacramento

men. If he is convicted, he could face

fire his current legal team.

the death penalty. Page 3.

Unabomber Suspect Seeks to Defend Self

defense planned by the lawyers was a situation her client "cannot endure." era" for Britain in the European Union in London on Thursday. Page 5. Mr. Kaczynski tried twice this week to Judge Burrell gave lawyers for both sides a brief break to discuss the im-In Russia, Punishment Precedes Trial

> THE AMERICAS Canada Apologises to Its Indians Dissension in French Government

._ Page 9. Pages 6-7. Pages 18-19. The IHT on-line view int.com

Beset by Crime, Germany to Loosen Bugging Curbs

By William Drozdiak Washington Past Service

BERLIN - The German government announced a major change in civil liber-

Newsstand Prices10.00 FF LebaronLL 3,000 .12.50 FF Morocco Cameroon...1.600 CFA Clatar..... 12.50 FF ___10 SR ...10.00 FF Saudi Azabia. 225 Ptas .. 2,800 Line Spain lvory Coast 1.250 CFA Tupidia 1.250 Din 1.250 JD UAE 10.00 Dh ...700 Fils U.S. Mil. (Eur.)\$1.20

police far greater powers to plant bugging devices in private homes to collect evidence against criminal suspects.

The landmark change, reached after delicate oegodations between Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing conservatives and the opposition Social Democrats, will permit eavesdropping practices banned by the constitution since 1945 because of widespread ahuses during the Nazi era.

Germany has maintained some of the West's strictest privacy protections because of the Nazi legacy, but anxiety about soaring crime rates impelled political leaders to break with postwar tradition and give the police one of the key crime-fighting tools they have long demanded to cope with drug smuggling and other organized criminal activities. This is a decisive step toward more

ties law on Thursday that will grant the Minister Manfred Kanther said. "We partners, the Social Democrats, for supcan now keep surveillance on suspected gangster apartments and we will be able to better fight money laundering."

Leaders of Mr. Kohl's coalitioo and the Social Democrats said their pact ensured that both houses of Parliament could pass the measure quickly so that German police will be able to coordinate surveillance operations with colleagues from other countries where similar snooping practices have been permitted for years.

But the agreement was quickly at-tacked by leftist poliocians, civil libertarians and journalists as a threat to basic democratic freedoms in postwar Germany that have guaranteed the privacy of a person's home from intrusions by the state.

The Greens party and the former Communists of the Party of Democratic effective ways to fight crime," Interior Socialism lambasted their opposition porting the controversial legislation which they claimed was motivated by short-term interests ahead of national

elections oext September. 'The Social Democratic party is now an accomplice to the further demolition of our constitution," said Juergen Trit-tin, chairman of the Greens, who are hoping to coter government later this year as part of a Red-Green coalition headed by the Social Democrats. "The Greens reject any attack on the inviolability of the private home as guar-

anteed in the consolution." German journalists also criticized the legislation, saying it would violate free press guarantees because the police would gain the authority to hug reporters' homes in their hunt for their sources suspected of criminal activities.

See GERMANY, Page 10

Korean President-Elect Blames Strongman Rule People Were 'Deceived' on Economy, Kim Says

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By Kevin Sullivan Washington Post Service

ILSAN, South Korea - Presidentelect Kim Dae Jung of South Korea on Thursday attributed much of Asia's fi-nancial crisis to governments that lie to their people and authoritarian leaders who have placed economic growth

ahead of democratic freedoms. "Many of the leaders of Asian society have been saying that military dictatorship was the way and democracy was not good for their nations,"
Mr. Kim said, in a 90-minute interview with the Washington Post at his home in this suburb of Seoul.

They concentrated only on economic development," he said, without specifying any nations but referring to 'Asian-style democracy," in which governments are huilt around n single strong leader who controls economic

policy.

I believe that the fundamental cause including here, in of the financial crisis, including here, in Korea, is because of placing economic development ahead of democracy," he

Mr. Kim, a crusader for democracy and human rights who was imprisoned,

exiled, sentenced to death and survived assassination attempts at the hands of South Korea's previous military dic-tators, also said he hoped his life would

inspire his nation's youth. 'If parents can tell their kids: 'Look at Kim Dae Jang: live upright, put your effort into a good cause and you will be successful, then I think my life would be very meaningful," said Mr. Kim. who won the presidency last mooth on his fourth attempt over the past quarter-

Mr. Kim also reaffirmed his "100 percent commitment" to the \$60 hillion bailout of his country's crippled economy, led by the International Mooetary Fund. Although the Fund is demanding tough changes that are expected to lead to massive layoffs and corporate bankruptcies, Mr. Kim, who has close ties with the nation's militant labor unions, said he believed he would be able to negotiate a deal to avert strikes that could hamper the recovery of one of the

world's largest economies. Mr. Kim described South Korea's relationship with the United States as 'mutually beneficial" on matters of

See KIM, Page 4

The Illness and Barbarism of Russia's Jails

By Alessandra Stanley New York Times Service

OSCOW - Prisoners almost always swear they are oot guilty. In the pretrial detention centers of Russia, many inmates insist that they no longer care ahout proving their innoceoce.

"At first, all I wanted was a fair trial," Pyotr Kuznetsov, 51, said in a dank and stinking cell of Matrosskaya Tishina, ooe of Moscow's largest and most infamous detention centers.

He said be had been arrested, and brutally beaten, for stealing about \$5 and had already spent 10 months behind bars awaiting trial. His lice-ridden 18th-century cell, built for 30, was suffed with more than 100 men. They share beds, sleeping in three shifts.

"All I want now is to get out of here, even to a

labor camp," Mr. Kuznetsov said. "I've been in prison before, and it is not as bad as this." The Russian penitentiary system competes with that in the United States as one of the largest in the world: Each has a population of more than one million inmates. And the Russian system is arguably one of the worst. Prisons are underfinanced, overcrowded and alarmingly unsanitary. Human rights

abuses abound. Tuberculosis is spreading wildly.

The government has no reliable data, but estimates suggest that tuberculosis rates in prisons are anywhere from 20 to 60 times as high as in the rest of the population, which has a TB death rate 24 times that of the United States. As many as 50 percent of Russian prisoners are believed to be infected.

But perhaps the most terrifying aspect of the penal system is pretrial detention. Close to 300,000 people awaiting trial are now in jail. There, a death senteoce atalks people who have not yet been convicted of a crime.

Unprotected from the TB epidemic and other infectious diseases, many detainees end up spending two, three and even four years awaiting their day in court in cells as packed as a rush-hour suhway car.

"During my aix years in Soviet prisons, I lived through many horrors," said Valeri Ahramkin, a dissident during the Soviet years who is oow an advocate for prison reform. 'I saw people suspended on iron hooks under their ribs. I saw German shepherds eat living human flesh."

Those tortures, he said, were at least of short duration. Today, people eodure inhuman cooditions for years. "It is certain that conditions in oormal jails were not this bad even under Stalin.'

There is no money in the Russian budget to build new prisons or eveo repair old ooes, so efforts to creep closer to Western standards rarely go beyond the paper they are printed on.

A law was passed last year increasing the amount of space to which a prisoner is entitled — from 27 square feet to 43 square feet (2.2 square meters to 3.9 square meters). In the United States, prisoners are supposed to be allotted 80 square feet. The reality of places like Matrosskaya Tishina is

that prisoners fight over less than a square foot. And the Russian legal system is so tortuous that people can find themselves detained for mooths or years even oo minor charges. Prosecutors are legally required to complete a criminal investigation within two years, but there is no time limit for judges, who can keep a suspect waiting for trial indefinitely. The average stay io deteotion is 10 months.

In the United States, where every state has a speedy-trial law, the average detention is 74 days. Most defendants get to trial within 45 days. And 65 percent of Americans accused of felonies are re-leased on bail.

In Soviet times, bail was dismissed as a capitalist folly. Today, bail is legal, but it remains a novelty, granted to less than 2 percent of the country's accused—usually to mobsters who have ready cash and connections to a compliant judge.

The courts here operate on the European in-



Cells at Matrosskaya Tishina, Moscow's infamous pre-trial jail, were designed to house 30 inmates. Each one now holds more than 100 in filthy conditions that breed tuberculosis. Fifty percent of Russian prisoners are believed to be infected.

quisitorial model rather than the American adversarial system, putting an additional strain on overloaded

judges and narrowing defendants' chances. 'Under our system, it is much harder to acquit than find a person guilty," said Sergei Pashin, an appeals court judge in Moscow. 'Less than one percent of all cases end in an acquittal, and that is because before a judge can acquit, he must do a huge amount of work that is not done by the police: requesting information, soliciting expert testimony, etc.

HE FACT that time served before trial is suhtracted from convicted prisocers' sentences can hardly be viewed as justice, Judge Pashin said. "The predetention centers are a far worse punishment than any prison," he said. Prisons and labor camps in Russia are grim,

but they are not nearly as overcrowded. The judge added that ofteo in the cases that come before him, confessions are beaten out of suspects and even out of people rounded up as witnesses.

In a report issued last year oo torture in Rossia. the human rights group Amnesty International said that "torture and ill-treatment occur at all stages of deteotion and imprisonment," hut noted that it was most often reported in pretrial detentioo.

"Its main purpose appears to be to intimidate detainees and obtain confessions," the report said. Confessions, more than evidence, are a major part of criminal investigations in Russia. Inside Matrosskaya Tishina, where 5,000 prisoners

are held in a prison built for 2,000, lies a Dickensian world of filth, squalor and disease. Inside fetid, windowless cells, prisoners are covered in lice. Rats dart out of walls. Prisoners stretch oot tin

bowls through a tiny opening in the door to receive bread and a gloopy gruel of kasha, or hockwheat, that is served for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The exercise yards are cement rooms in the attic, where prisoners can see the sky by squinting through a wehbed roof of barbed wire.

Directly outside the prison walls teems another closed circle of misery: Parents and wives, who line up for hours and even days just to deliver a packet of food or medicine to their locked-up relatives. Matrosskaya Tishina has its own tuberculosis hospital, where 700 infected detainees are being treated in a 220-bed ward. Vasili Podprozhnikov. Moscow's chief of corrections, said 70 detainees died in the first nine months of 1996 - more than

We put them in the hospital, and when they get better they go back to the cells, and within three months they get sick again," he said. "What can you expect with this humidity and overcrowding?" He said his hudget was cut by a third last year, and

half of them from TB.

he expects more cuts this year. Guards make less than \$100 a month, and prisons are seriously understaffed. Escapes are oot uncommon. "Only the lazy don't

escape from here, "he said with a weary smile.
Yuri Skuratov, Russia's chief prosecutor, toured the country's main detendon centers last spring and described himself as appalled hy what he had seen. He warned that unless "urgent measures" taken, there could be a "social explosion."

There was a rash of prison riots in 1992, which were harshly put down. Conditions have since worsened, but there have been few major disturbances.

"Inmates understand perfectly well that the pris-

on authorities are oot responsible for their conditions," said Yuri Aleksandrov, a prisoners' rights activist for the ocoprofit ageocy Novy Dom. "The whole criminal justice system is to blame. It's a meotality that dates back to Stalin."

Russia, which woo admissioo to the Council of Europe last year on the condition that it reform its criminal justice system, agreed to abolish the death penalty. This year, the government also pledged to fransfer jurisdiction over prisons from the Interior Ministry to the Justice Ministry.

The intent is to increase the independence of the judiciary and give the prisoo authorities some autonomy from law enforcement agencies, but few in Russia expect the change to alter prison cooditions.
"It may make a difference, but oot for the zek,"

said Mr. Podpruzhnikov, using the Russian slang for prisoner. "For the zek, nothing is going to change anytime soon."

After Land-Mine Ban, **Assault Rifles Targeted**

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

VIENNA — Buoyed by their sur-prising success in achieving a treaty to ban land mines, a range of nongovernmental groups from academic institutes to human rights and aid agencies are now girding for a campaign against assault rifles and other light weapons, which inflame ethnic and nationalist wars around the world.

The campaigners do not have as their goal a gun-free world, which they say would be unrealistic. Rather they seek to curb the brisk, largely unregulated trade in the kind of light weapons that end up in the hands of terrorist and organizedcrime syndicates as well as warring fac-

'It is the real arms-control issue of the post-Cold War era," said Joseph Smaldone, a veteran of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, who took part last month in a Washington conference on the small-arms trade. "Small arms are the real weapons of mass destruction.

The land mines campaigners achieved great success, oow they are going to capitalize on that momentum,"
Mr. Smaldone said. "It is already well organized and deeply committed, and it brings together everyone from arms control types to humanitarian activists."

One week after the land-mine treaty was aigned in Ottawa in early December, a two-day conference took place in Washington on "Controlling the Global Trade in Light Weapons," sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Carnegie Commission oo Preventing Deadly Conflict. It was attended by arms-control advocates from as far away as South Africa, India and New Zealand, as well as by Clinton

Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy of Canada, who played a lead role in the

land-mines campaign, has said trafficking in small arms is next oo the

In Norway, another leader in the land. mines campaign — the Red Cross three other nongovernmental groups announced last month that they were opening a campaign against small-arms trafficking. The coalition already has a \$700,000 war chest, some of it

from the Norwegian government.

During the Cold War, the world's powers sought to prevent the outbreak of deadly war by controlling the proliferation of nuclear and strategic weapons. A treaty banning chemical eapons went into effect last year.

Bot no treaty or comprehensive monitoring system exists for small arms or light weapons. These are generally defined as weapons that can be carried by an individual, or fired hy a small crew. They include automatic rifles. submachine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, small mortars and shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.

It is these weapons, in this era of wars between ethnic groups, that are wreaking mayhem around the world - in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Algeria, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka. The death toll in each of these conflicts has been in the tens of thousands.

Adding to the urgency for action on small arms, more than 80 percent of the victims of the small-arms wars are not combatants, but women and children, a special U.S. committee of governmental experts on small arms said io a report in Angust.

The ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia was carried out largely with fles, grenades and light artillery.

Modern technology has also made weapons lighter and easier to use, contributing to a phenomenal rise in child soldiers - who number more than 200,000 under the age of 16, according to the United Nations.

U.S. Agency May Order Checks On 737s Due to SilkAir Crash

By Don Phillips

WASHINGTON - Investigators at the site of a SilkAir crash in Indooesia have discovered parts missing from the tail section of the Boeing 737-300, according to aviation sources, which will probably lead the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to order inspections of other 737-300s, the world's most pop-

The sources cantioned that the problem found at the scene of the Dec. 19 crash could well be a ooc-time anomaly that would not indicate a systemic problem in the popular twin-jet, but that the aviatioo agency cannot ignore the pos-sibility. The sources said the problem also apparently would oot lead investigators any closer to determining a cause for two mysterious 737 crashes, at

Pittsburgh and Colorado Springs.
The U.S. agency has issued a brief statement, saying only that it is "in-tensely" evaluating information from the SilkAir accident scene and "is taking steps to be ready to direct safety inspections on some Boeing 737s should that become necessary.

Sources said initial word from the remote crash scene oo the island of Sumatra indicated that fasteners sometimes called rivers or bolts — were

missing from the leading edge of the horizootal stabilizer and from a hinge on the elevator - both of which help control up-and-down movement. Why they were missing is unknown, but sources said the FAA is likely to order inspections, probably immediately.

There are numerous possible reasons

for fasteners to be missing: They could have popped out because of crash forces; airplanes have crashed in the past because maintenance forces failed to install eoough fasteners after maintenance; vibratioo, or flutter, in flight is another possibility, although unlikely.

In any case, lack of fasteners might have allowed parts of the plane to work loose gradoally or jam. in flight. Investigators are to look into this as one of

the possible causes of the crash.

The SilkAir plane plunged from s
cruising altitude of 35,000 feet (10,600 meters) on the afternoon of Dec. 19 while on a flight from Jakarta to Singapore, killing all 104 people aboard. SilkAir, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, flies to 21 cities in Asia.

U.S. interest in the accident has been intense because 737s have been involved in two unexplained crashes in the United States in which planes suddealy plunged from a much lower alti-tude. The 737 is the world's most widely used airliner, with 2,950 delivered.





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TRAVEL UPDATE

Zimbabwe Says Its Airspace Is Safe

HARARE (Reuters) — The Department of Civil Aviation on Thursday acknowledged occasional equipment failures at airports in Zimbabwe but dismissed charges that the country's on flooding. airspace was unsafe.
"This is machinery," said Amos Marahwa, director of the

department. "It sometimes fails and we repair it. But these hair-raising stories they are telling are pure fiction. He was referring to assertions by 67 air traffic controllers who

were dismissed by the government last month after they went on

strike over pay. The controllers said there had been near collisions in the country's airspace due to aged equipment.

In South Africa, a spokesman for South African Airways, Leon Els, said there had been an incident of "reduced separation" involving two SAA planes and other aircraft in Timbehween airways in December He said it was not life. Zimbabwean airspace in December. He said it was not lifethreatening. He also said the airline's pilots were confident of landing safely at Harare.

Heavy Snow in Tokyo and Nagano

TOKYO (Reuters) - Heavy snowfalls paralyzed traffic and disrupted rail and air services in Tokyo on Thursday. The snow delayed the Shinkansen bullet train and caused the cancellation of 82 domestic flights. Some trains in central Tokyo were also halted.

The meteorological agency predicted snowfalls of up to 20 centimeters in Tokyo and 40 centimeters in Nagano prefecture, where the Winter Olympics will begin on Feb. 7. By 10 P.M. on Thursday, 11 centimeters of snow had fallen in Tokyo and 30 centimeters in Nagano. The snowfall was expected to continue through early Friday, the meteorological agency said.

Rescue workers evacuated 23 American tourists near Petra, Jordan, after two buses in which they had been riding became stuck for six hours following heavy rain, the newspaper Al Rai reported Thursday. No one was hurt.

Correction

A caption in Thursday's issue incorrectly spelled Andersonstown, in western Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Huge Storms Batter Central U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) - A storm stretching from Mississippi to Canada forced people from their homes Thursday, closing highways and damaging houses. At least four deaths were blamed

WEATHER

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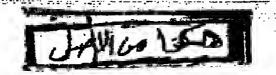
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THE AMERICAS

In Canada, a Mea Culpa

Government Apologizes to Native Peoples

By Howard Schneider Washington Post Service

Indian, Inuit and other aboriahuse at the government-run communities. ginal peoples of Canada for schools. The schools were not decades of mistreatment, of- closed until the 1970s and left fering an emotional atone a legacy of emotional scars ment for policies that sought among generations of Indians to stamp ont native culture who remember them as and confined Indian children places where they were se-in often abusive government-cluded from their families, run schools.

Following an Indian drum and dance performance, and clutching a ceremonial feather, Jane Stewart, Canada's country, we are hurdened by minister of Indian affairs and northern development, read an official "Statement of Reconciliation" that acknowledged the damage done to na- and outlawing spiritual practive populations beginning with the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century and running through modern efforts to suppress native religion and language.

broad terms with an array of offenses, including the hanging of Louis Riel, a leader tween early French explorers and native tribes - who was convicted of treason and ex- gether," she said. ecuted in 1885 for his role in a Saskatchewan uprising.

Jones Will Attend

Clinton Deposition

tween Canada and its original and economic development residents, and she pledged \$250 million for a 'healing TORONTO - The gov- fund" to help those who

forbiddeo to speak their languages and, in the harshest cases, physically abused.

Ms. Stewart said, "As a past actions that resulted in weakening the identity of aboriginal peoples, suppressing their languages and cultures, tices." She read the statement from a scroll that was presented to representatives of Canada's five major Indian organizations.

nd language. "The government of The statement dealt in Canada today formally expresses to all aboriginal people in Canada our pro-found regret for past actions of the Metis people - de- of the federal government scendants of intermingling be-which have contributed to these difficult pages in the history of our relationship to-

Along with the healing fund, Ms. Stewart said the Ms. Stewart said she hoped government would begin the statement would inaugu-working with Indian leaders rate a new relationship be- to develop health, counseling

programs to address unemployment, teenage suicide and other chronic social probemment has apologized to the suffered physical and mental lems plagning many native

Native affairs have remained among Canada's most pressing domestic concerns. Indians are the fastest-growing segment of Canadian society. Many provinces, most no-

tably British Columbia, are involved in treaty negotiations with Indian groups over basic questions of land title were not settled in the colonial era. On several occasions, courts here have recognized aboriginal rights to harvest resources contained on traditional lands - limiting what was assumed to be provincial jurisdiction over forests and fishing grounds, for example.

The statement of reconciliation, therefore, is not only an ethical expression of sorrow hnt also an acknowledgment that Canada still needs to resolve questions about how to divide the wealth of the land between cultures. After decades of legal battles, timeconsuming talks and sometimes violent protests by natives asserting traditional land claims, the statement is a step in the right direction, said Phil Fontaine, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, a

For the first time in his-Mr. Fontaine said, "this government has accepted that Canada cannot achieve its full potential" tory and self-image. Not all Indian leaders were

coalition of native groups.

taine. Some said the apology on it, and he didn't." was not strong enough and that the remedial steps announced were insufficient for a government expecting to country's attorney general. run a budget surplus.

By Donald P. Baker



A Zapatista rebel standing guard at a guerrilla base in Oventic, Chiapas. Villagers who had fled after the Mexican Army set up a post nearby returned this week.

Chiapas Governor Resigns

Official Is Accused of Ignoring Warnings of Massacre

By Julia Preston New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY - The governor of the sonthern state of Chiapas has resigned, be-coming the latest high-level politician to fall in the aftermath of the December killings of 45 Indian villagers by a pro-government paramilitary gang in a hamlet in his state.

Governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro, who has been accused by Roman Catholic Church and opposition leaders in Chiapas of ignoring many warning signs of tension in the region, requested an indefinite leave of absence, saying

only that Chiapas "needs a new strategy. President Ernesto Zedillo did not ask directly for the resignation, officials close to Mexico's leader said, but sent numerous signals since the Dec. 22 killings that he was without the success of native peoples who form 2.7 percent of the population but loom much larger in Canada's his
dissatisfied with the Chiapas governor, who is a member of Mr. Zedillo's political party, the institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

"The message is clear: In this case we are

The message is clear: In this case we are oot going to protect anyone." an official said. "Human lives were lost because the governor as accepting of the govern-ment's comments as Mr. Fon-pening in his state. He should have had a grip

. Immediately after the killings the president wrested the investigation out of the hands of state authorities and handed it over to the

administration, including his chief of staff and top security official, are being investigated hy the federal authorities for possible criminal negligence in connection with the violence in the hamlet of Acteal, in the Tzotzil Indian township of Chenalho.

A top Catholic prelate, the Reverend Gonzalo Ituarte, said he called the state security chief at midday on Dec. 22 to relay reports of gunfire received from villagers in Chenalho. Although there is a joint state police and army outpost within a mile of the hamlet, security forces were never dispatched to the scene, even while the shootings of unarmed Indian refugees, including many women and children, continued throughout the afternoon,

On Jan. 3, Mr. Zedillo dismissed the interior minister. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor, who had been his top political operator, Mr. Chuayffet was in charge of guiding negotiations with the Zapatista rebels. The talks broke down in late 1996, leaving the conflict to fester.

So far, Mr. Ruiz Ferro has oot been the target of a criminal investigation. .

Some 46 people, most of them Tzotzil Indians from neighboring villages in the same township, have been arrested on charges up to first degree murder in the killings. The Chenalho mayor, Jacinto Arias Cruz, also a member of the government party, was accused of organizing and arming the gang of killers and is Several senior officials of Mr. Ruiz Ferro's in jail oo charges of assault and conspiracy.

POLITICAL NOTES

Cisneros Pleads Not Guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Henry Cisneros, the former housing secretary, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that he lied to conceal payments made to his former mistress while he was under consideration as a cabinet

Mr. Cisneros appeared at the federal court arraignment along with the woman, Linda Jones, who is also charged with participating in the conspiracy to obstruct the FBl background investigation as Bill Clinton was preparing to

Mr. Cisneros is accused of concealing that he paid Ms. Jones more than \$250,00 to maintain silence about their affair. Most of the money was paid before Mr. Cisneros became head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the indictment charges he paid Ms. Jones nearly \$80,000 his first year in office.

Two former employees, John Rosales and Sylva Arce-Garcia, also pleaded not guilty to charges that they took

part in the conspiracy to conceal their boss's payments to Ms. Jones. Both had worked at Mr. Cisneros's San Antonio communications company and followed him to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin set the trial for

Fix California, Wilson Urges

SACRAMENTO, California --- Governor Peter Wilson, saying that the "state of the state is strong and getting stronger every day," warned lawmakers at their opening legislative session that California's prosperity was still threatened by crumbling public facilities and

expanding government,
Mr. Wilson said the state had a duty — especially
during good times — to repair outdated buildings and
structures, Hc asked lawmakers to place nearly S7 billion in construction bonds on the ballot this year for state schools and colleges, parks, prisons, water facilities and environmental resources.

At the same time, Mr. Wilson responded to Republican concerns about such major new spending plans by announcing that he would seek voter approval for a new and tighter cap on annual hudget growth.

'California has become the powerhouse of the Pacific," he said. "But a word of caution. The nightmare of the early 1990s wasn't just a recession. California was losing jobs wholesale because we'd ceased to be attractive to investors and job creators.

"Never, ever again can we let that happen to California," he added. (L47)

Quote/Unquote

. Moorhead Kennedy, a former U. S. emhassy hostage in Iran, on President Mohammed Khatami's call for new contacts with Americans: "They were arguments very familiar to me from my hostage days. Things haven't changed that much. What came through very clearly was their view, they have nothing against Americans, It's simply U.S. government policy that they disagree with in

Hav ()rder () Face-to-Face Meeting Is Expected

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would be represented in the case and pot the trial on hold again as his lawyers and Judge Garland Burrell discussed what the next move should be. Ms. Clarke said the mental illness

reasons," Mr. Bennett said in WASHINGTON - Paula a televisioo interview.

'One, Paula Jones and her Jones intends to confront President Bill Clinton face- principal advisers," he said, to-face when he testifies in her sexual harassment suit will sell more books with a against him, a spokeswoman splashy trial. I'm oot guessfor Mrs. Jones said. The presfor Mrs. Jones said. The pres-ing, I'm not speculating, I ident's lawyer responded that know that for a fact." Mr. she had the right to be there. Bennett said those advisers "I doo't know when or included Mrs. Jones's huswhere the deposition will be band and her spokeswoman.

taken, bot whenever it is, Paula will be there," Susan "Secondly, the people funding the litigation, such as Carpenter McMillan, the the Rutherford Institute, they spokeswoman, said Wednes- want to embarrass the presday.
Paula Corbin Jones will be sitting across that table from William Jefferson Clin-

eye and either be forced to tell may be delayed. Mr. Bennett said that disclosure of the deposition date Robert Bennett, Mr. Clinon Wednesday by The Washingtoo Times made it likely ton's lawyer, said he would not that the deposition would be challenge Mrs. Jones's request delayed, in part because it could create a media specto be present at the deposition. "She's a party to the case and

said the case would not be now that it has been leaked," settled out of court because Mr. Bennett said. advisers to Mrs. Jones wanted to profit financially from a

"I think we're going to go to trial for two fundamental

the truth or perjure himself,

she can be there," he said.

Ms. McMillan added.

are of the view that they

ident," Mr. Bennett added, referring to the Virginia-based nonprofit conservative group. As it stands oow, Mr. Clinton" and he is "going to ton is to testify on Jan. 17 at have to look her straight in the the White House. But that

racle with Mrs. Jones's arrival at the White House. On Thursday, Mr. Bennett

> Mr. Clinton has denied Mrs. Jooes's allegations and said he does not recall meet-

ing her.

Miami Mayor's Antics Keep Radio Call-In Lines Ringing

Washington Post Service MIAMI — Even if the voice on the answering ma-chine at The Miami Herald had not been a familiar one, the caller left no doubt: "This is the mayor of Miami," said Xavier Suarez.

The volatile mayor, whose actions and antics have shaken an already unstable city government — his first three appointees as city manager quit rather than heed his demand to fire a popular police chief — warned the "That's a very soft date newspaper to "be nicer to me, my people, my citizens and my city" or face the loss of \$200,000 a year in city ads.

"I note that we are subsidizing you and your newspaper with ads related to of-(AP, Reuters) ficial ootices of the city," Mr. Suarez said.

Derisively referring to the Herald's publisher, David Lawrence Jr., as the "maximum leader of the free world for the publishing company," the mayor threatened to "figare out every possible way of did not get better treatment.

shadowed Mr. Suarez closely since he took office Nov. 14

the day after he was electprimary on the strength of absentee ballots that are still being investigated for possible fraud -- responded by making his recorded call available on the Herald's call-in information service.

Mr. Suarez, a Harvardeducated lawyer who served as mayor from 1989 to 1993, promised to take swift action to get the city back on track upon being elected Miami's first executive mayor. The city's voters approved a charter change in September

But few expected that in seeking that goal Mr. Suarez,

• Knock on the door of a retired city employee late at night to confront her about a critical letter she had written to him, only to be greeted by a .38-caliber gun and a request to go away.

Pledge to make Miami the world's cleanest city by advertising in any possible the end of 1997, even if newspaper except yours" if he garbage workers had to work overtime, an idea the work-The newspaper, which has ers' union quickly vetoed. who are talking about the tion, said last fall that Miami

 Burst into tears in front of reporters on two occasions. He later explained that "my ed, having barely survived a son told me I have to show my emotions. That's impact. That's a leader who is getting things done. Someone who shares warmth. That's Fiorello LaGuardia. That's Ed Koch," he said, referring to

> York. Drive to the Herald in his bathrobe in the middle of the night to buy an early edition of the newspaper, saying he had a "hunch" that it would contain a negative story about

two former mayors of New

 Make an impromptu visit that gave the mayor greater to Mr. Koch and the developer Donald Trump dnring a trip to New York in which he unsuccessfully tried to convince Wall Street analysts that Miami's budget crisis was a myth.

Carl Hiaasen, a Herald columnist, wrote at that time that before Mr. Suarez came home, he should drop by Bellevue, the psychiatric hospital, for a checkup "because the mayor is either certifiably nuts or seriously undermed-

But it is not just columnists

is dehated daily on the city's radio stations, especially the Spanish-language ones, and in Little Havana, the heart of Mr. Suarez's Cuban-American constituency. Many sup-port his attack on the Herald and other bastions of the business establishment.

And a University of Miami political scientist, Annette Steinacker, said that Mr. Suarez was right in "legitimately testing the boundaries" of his new powers by attempting to replace the police chief and reduce the number of city workers. But she said he was wrong in continuing to push issues that he could not win.

A former mayor, Maurice Ferre, said on a Spanish radio program: "He is destroying

Despite its glistening sky-line and shimmering beaches, multicultural Miami is the nation's fourth poorest city, still growing because of an unending stream of legal and illegal immigrants. Many affluent resident have fled to the suburbs.

Joe Carolla, the former mayor who was defeated by Mr. Suarez in a runoff elec-

mayor's actions. His conduct had "just gone through the worst year in our history. "We not only had the higgest scandal," he said,

> major city." With a deficit of \$70 million, equal to about a quarter of its \$275 million annual hudget, the city had to endure a state-imposed oversight commission that still, to the

> dismay of Mr. Suarez, controls local spending. The corruption, nnearthed 'Operation Greenpalm," has resulted in prison sentences for a former city manager for accepting bribes; the resignation of the port director amid charges of lavish entertain-

he was hired as a consultant to clean up the mess he had left — and the indictment of one of the city's five commissioobut we probably had the ers, or council members, oo worst financial time of any charges of money laundering

and mortgage fraud. That commissioner, Humberto Hernandez Jr., whose predecessor is serving a 27month prison term for accepting n \$200,000 payoff from a company hidding on a city computer contract, promptly was tapped by Mr. Suarez to head an investigation into the in an FBI investigation called state attorney's inquiry of

J. L. Plummer Jr., a city commissioner, said Wednesday that Mr. Suarez is "going too fast. People have urged him to slow down, take things ment and illegal campaign easier be more methodical in contributions — offset when his actions."

Away From Politics

 A 3-year-old girl who contracted polio from a dose of oral vaccine has received a multimillion-dollar settlement. Mariam Fadayel cannot breath on her own or feed herself and has limited use of her limbs. A judge in San Mateo County, California, appointed her parents to handle the settlement that will pay them \$1 million outright and \$350,000 more each year for her care. The child's medical bills so far total \$1.5 million. (AP)

 An Idaho state judge ordered an FBI sharpshooter to stand trial for involuntary manslaughter in the killing of Vicki Weaver, the wife of the white separatist Randy Weaver, during the 1992 siege at Ruby Ridge. The judge's finding of probable cause in the case against Lon Horischi is a rare instance in which a federal agent has faced a criminal trial for killing a suspect, the prosecutor

 Two F-16 fighter jets collided over the Utah desert, forcing one pilot to eject before his jet crashed and burned. The other pilot landed safely, and neither was seriously injured.

· An animal trainer remained in critical condition with severe head wounds after a tiger he had raised from infancy bit his head and refused to let go. The trainer's brother shot and killed the 350-pound (158-kilogram) tiger after the attack. Richard Chipperfield, 24, was attacked while a dozen tigers were inside a ring for a practice of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus in St. Petersburg. Florida.

SACRAMENTO, California — Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber

suspect accused of a string of bombings that killed three people, again disrupted the opening of his trial as he proposed

Thursday to serve as his own attorney.

Mr. Kaczynski's request, announced by his defense lawyer, Judy Clarke, fol-

lowed a week of wrangling over how he

Decade of Surpluses Is Now Forecast

icated.

By Eric Pianin Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The Congressional Budget Office has issued revised projections showing that for the first time in 30 years the federal budget is effectively in balance and that Congress and the White House can look forward to mount-

hillion, the new report shows that it will

rounding error in an annual federal hudget of \$1.7 trillion.

defense planned by the lawyers - over attributed to the shadowy figure nicktheir client's bitter objections - is a named the Unabomber since 1978,

Judge Burrell gave lawyers for both sides a brief break to discuss the im-

request Thursday "disturbing" but did fendant should be represented by his

Mr. Kaczynski, 55, has pleaded not further delay the trial, an alternate juror

guilty in Sacramento to charges that he called in sick Thursday.

Unabomber Suspect Delays Trial Again

Mr. Kaczynski tried twice this week

fire his current legal team.
Judge Burrell called Mr. Kaczynski's

not immediately indicate what he

carried out four of the 16 bombings

"situation that he cannot endure."

plications of the request.

planned to do.

ing surpluses in the coming decade.

While the deficit for the 1998 fiscal year was once forecast as high as \$120

killing two local men. If he is convicted,

of opening statements by bringing up the

dispute with his lawyers. But at a hearing

Wednesday, Judge Burrell appeared to

In another development that could

The state of the s

close the issue by ruling that the de-

current, court-appointed lawyers.

as much as \$138 billion by 2008. Budget Office are the latest in a tide of

good economic news. They trump President Bill Clinton's own forecast of a few days ago that the deficit this year will finish at somewhere below \$22 billion. The new forecast is even more extraordinary, analysts said, because the contotal only \$5 billion, little more than a gressional agency traditionally has been more conservative than the president's The fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

Even without further belt-tightening office of Management and Budget. "Our projections show we are efistration, the surging economy would fectively in balance for the next decade, wipe out the remaining vestiges of the and the deficits for the next three years deficit by 2001 and generate surpluses of are so small that a puff of wind can blow them to the positive side of the ledger,' The numbers from the Congressional said June O'Neill, the director of the congressional agency.

Gene Sperling, the senior White House economics adviser, said the report "confirms our view that we can reach balance by fiscal year 1999 and shows that if the economy continues to perform stronger, as expected, who knows, maybe we can do it this year.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Phnom Penh Bans 6 Papers For 'Defaming' Leadership

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian Information Ministry suspended six op-position newspapers Thursday on the grounds that they bad defamed the country's leaders and threatened national se-

It instructed the Interior Ministry to seize all copies of the papers on news-stands and banned companies from print-ing the publications. The papers have recently published stinging attacks on the coup leader in Cambodia, Hun Sen.

The Information Ministry cited one article comparing the Cambodian leader to a dog and others accusing him of sympathizing with Vietnam and seeking to intimidate Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the former co-prime minister, who was deposed in a conp last year.

"Those six newspapers have published false news that curses and defames the leaders of the royal government, curses and defames our national institutions, affects national security and political stability and violates the press law," the secretary of state for information, Khien Kanharith, wrote in a letter to the Interior Ministry.

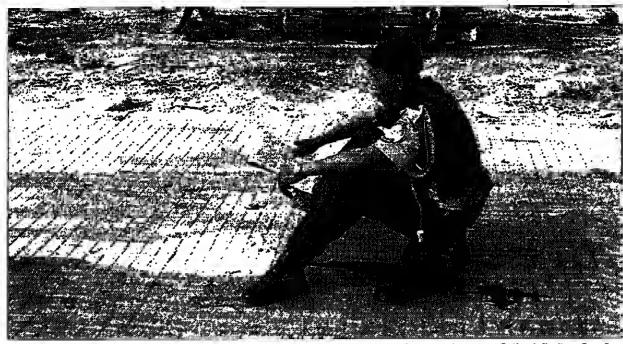
The Cambodian-language press is known for its strong partisanship and tough attacks on poliocians.

Cambodia's press law says newspapers cannot publish articles that threaten national security, and severai Cambodian newspapers have recently been suspended under that rule.

In a letter to printing companies, Mr. Khieu Kanharith warned that the authorities would punish companies violating the order to halt printing of the six newspapers.

The oewspapers that were suspended were Samleng Samapheap, Antarakum, Knmnit Kaun Khmer, Proyuth, Neak Tosu and Kolvoth Angkor.

On Wednesday, Mr. Khieu Kanharith dropped a threat to expel Ed Fitzgerald, a Canadian correspondent for the Asia Business News network, who was accused of overly negative reporting. The Information Ministry accused some journalists last mooth of becoming mouthpieces for extremists and warned reporters to make their articles more balanced.



A Cambodian policeman reading a newspaper while on break Thursday. He had put his AK-47 rifle aside.

BRIEFLY

Taiwan Delays Its Plan to Ship Nuclear Waste to North Korea

TAIPEI — Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council said Thursday that Taiwan Power Co. had not dropped a plan to ship ouclear waste to North Korea, but it was delayed by a review to certify the secretive Stalinist state's installations.

"The North Korean nuclear waste project is still undergoing the review process," Chiu Tzu-tsung, director of the government council's Radwaste Administration, said hy

telephone.

"We are waiting for Taipower to submit documentation to show that North Korea has completed construction of the waste site," he added. "The plan will be carried out after we finish our review.

On Wednesday, the nuclear power news agency NucNet, quoting Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council, said that Taipower had shelved the plan and would propose a new site oo Taiwan to store low-level radioactive waste.

Mr. Chiu said he was unaware of the NucNet report hut acknowledged recent local media speculation that the plan might be abandooed.

Nepal Leader Asks for Elections

KATMANDU, Nepal - Prime Minister Surva Bahadur Thapa of Nepal recommended new elections following a threatened oo-confidence vote by the Communist oppo-

State radio said Mr. Thapa had asked King Birendra to dissolve Parliament and schedule a date for elections. The Himalayan kingdom's three-month-old centrist gov-

ernment is the fourth since November 1994 elections produced a hung Parliament. Mr. Thapa took office on Oct.

State radio said King Birendra had begun consultations on the political developments and had met Mr. Thapa on Thursday at Pokhara, 200 kilometers west of the capital,

China Sends Relief to Province

BELIING - Authorities in China's oorthwestern Oinghai Province have sent grain, gasoline and diesel fuel to areas where heavy snowfalls have killed livestock and threatened nomadic berdsmen, a local official said Thurs-

'The snowstorms affected about 30,000 people in the area," said the official in Yushn city. "Some suffered from snow hlindness and frosthite."

Yushu, about 40 kilometers north of the border that separates Qinghai and Tibet, has been hit by 40 snowstorms since September. No deaths have been reported. (Reuters)

Taleban Denies Massacre Charge

KABUL — The ruling Taleban Islamic movement in Afghanistan said Thursday that its forces were not in the area of a reported massacre of more than 600 civilians in the northeast of the country on Jan. 1 and 2. It said the killings could have been the work of opposition forces.

The opposition alliance accuses retreating Taleban forces of having killed the civilians

Taleban also announced that it had released 28 prisoners

of war from the opposition.

INDONESIA: A Sense of Confusion in Jakarta as Currency and Stocks Plunge Further Continued from Page 1

to step aside — unusual in a country where politics is marked by deference to authority - Mr. Suharto, a retired army general, is likely to be chosen again by the assembly, which be effectively controls.

officials from the United States and the Mar'ie Muhammad." International Monetary Fund for not

loan for Indonesia. Analysts also said Mr. family's extensive business interests to rupiah and stocks, analysts said. the full rigor of IMF-mandated reforms.

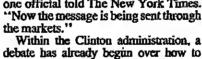
"His declining health will increase They said that in amounting a budget the Suharto family's desire to protect its the Suharto family's desire to protect its Economic Risk Consultancy, "and if be interests," said David Brown, senior ing, Mr. Suharto was seeking to minimum associate at the Asia Pacific Policy Centinue to have one at a time when strong "Now the message is being sent through imize social and political unrest before ter in Washington. "There are worrying the March presidential elections. The signs of family pressures to reverse rehudget was criticized by analysts and forms and force out Finance Minister omy," be added. "You'll bave policy

Uocertainty over Mr. Suharto's

meeting austerity targets agreed to in policies, health and political intentions, istration warned Indonesia that it was connection with a \$40 billion standby and his refusal to heed calls to designate a crucial that it begin complying with the and his refusal to heed calls to designate a crucial that it begin complying with the vice president and successor immediately terms of the IMF bailout. Washingtoo Suharto appeared reluctant to subject his are contributing to the panic selling of the

"We now have a weak president in Indonesia," said Mr. Gale of Political & the money will be cut off. leadership is needed."

"That will be bad oews for the econparalysis in the government." On Wednesday, the Clintoo admin-



thus joined the IMF in sending Mr.

Suharto a blunt message: If Indonesia

does not fulfill its reform commitments,

debate has already begin over how to handle Indonesia in coming months, The Times reported. Treasury officials have made clear that unless Indonesia complies with terms of the IMF accord, continuing support would undercut the credibility of other IMF bailouts around the world.

■ No Panie in the Government

Keith B. Richburg of the Washington Post reported from Hong Kong: A Foreign Ministry spokesman said there were no emergency meetings to deal with the crisis, and no sense of panic among government officials. "So far, what I've been hearing are expressions of optimism on the government side, sticking it out and receiving more

punches," he said. "There's no sense of panic, so we'll just keep on watching and see how long these punches will go on," he added. He said Indonesians had been cush-ioned from their country's economic collapse because, so far, prices have not

markedly increased, and most people still operate in a rupiah-only economy. A journalist in Jakarta said by telephone that there were few visible signs so far that Indonesia was careening toward economic disaster. Prices for rice and cooking oil have increased as much as 30 percent. But transportation costs, a key measure, have remained virtually unchanged since the onset of the crisis, with the government still holding down petroleum prices through costly subsi-dies. "Most people are hlissfully un-aware of the real situation," the jourthrough the Indonesian capital after the rupiah lost 16 percent of its value in a single trading day. nalist said.



Continued from Page 1

economic trade and security. He supported the continued presence of 37,000 American troops to deter aggression from Stalinist North Korea. And Mr. Kim, who is seen as far more moderate toward the North than the current president, Kim Young Sam, said he would move "aggressively" to provide emergency food aid to the North. The president-elect said that his hopes to engage Pyongyang more openly — perhaps even through a meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader, Kim Jong 11 — were well known to the North Koreans.

"We are just waiting for their re-

sponse," he said. Two days after his 74th hirthday, Mr. Kim appeared rested, robust and confident as he discussed the triumph and tragedy of his life, and the severe problems facing the nation he will lead when he is sworn in on Feh. 25. Mr. Kim's bouse is just 16 kilometers (10 miles) from the tense Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas; the highway to his town is lined with a fence topped is to induce foreign investment. We will approximately \$40 hillion of deficit Korean people.

with coils of barbed wire to keep North be very aggressive on both. Our new Korean agents from coming ashore from

Shoppers lining up to buy basic foodstuffs in Jakarta on Thursday as rumors of sharp price increases spread

Mr. Kim laughed when he noted the irony that government security agents were stationed at his house, much as they were during bis years of house arrest in the 1980s, when he lived in a house in the 1980s, when he lived in a house in the 1980s, when he lived in a house in the lived in a house in the lived in the world economy." Seoul. Then, they were imprisoning a in South Korea in the past had been a man condemned as a threat to the nation; lack of the transparency in government now they are guarding a man about to and finance that comes in a fully funcbecome its chief executive.

me, before they were trying to cootain and Malaysia to South Korea, and now threatens Japan, is a failure to install a doing this for five years in the Blue House makes me a little uneasy, even embarrassed."

Mr. Kim spoke at length about the then the collusive intimacy between financial crisis facing South Korea, con-husiness and government and corruption tending that the nation oceds a thorough reform of government and corporate fi- the wealth would not have been allocnancial structures that have led the nation to the brink of insolvency.

economy, I believe we have to do two things," increase our export volume, and the other cause we had too many of them. We had

administration is going to take all these policies not because of the requirement by the international community or the IMF.

tioning democracy. The Asian crisis that "These people are now protecting has swept from Indonesia and Thailand and markets accountable, he said.

"If we had true democracy in Korea, would not have been as great here. And ated to only a few people. Usually the n to the brink of insolvency.

dictatorship or authoritarian style of government lies to people. We've been told we are very wealthy, and we have Mr. Kim said. "The first is to been told to spend dollars ahroad be-

when President Kim Young Sam came in, and now we have \$150 billion of deficit. So basically we've been living well off the loans that we've been given, the people have been deceived, and that's why we have this financial

The ultimate solution to South Korea's problems, Mr. Kim said, was increased investment, especially by foreigners. He said Seoul was moving quickly toward removing limits on foreign ownership of stocks and real estate, as well as upgrading South Korea's murky accounting practices, which make it virtually impossible to assess the financial health of a company - or the government.

"We want to induce investment by making foreign investors feel they have no problems here," Mr. Kim said.

During the election campaign, Mr. Kim alarmed foreign investors and analysts by suggesting that Seoul should renegotiate the IMF deal. On Thursday, he acknowledged that he initially did not "understand the full depth" of the financial crisis, and he hlamed President Kim for misleading him and the South

U.S. Newsman Quits Seoul Jail

But Libel Charge Keeps Korean-American in Country The Associated Press

SEOUL - A Korean-American journalist imprisoned three weeks ago on libel charges was released Thursday pending trial.

Richard Choi, 49, a oewsman for Los Angeles-based KBLA-AM, or Radio Korea, was set free shortly after midnight but must remain in the country until the case is resolved, Seoul court officials said. Violators of South Korea's libel laws

can face up to five years in prison. Mr. Choi was arrested four days after he reported from Seoul on Dec. 15 that the Hankook Ilbo-Korea Times newspaper group, which runs an FM radio station in Los Angeles that competes with Mr. Choi's station, was in financial trouble and might be merged with the

slander by trying to cripple the news- without court permission."

paper during a nationwide financial crisis and causing the newspaper serious financial problems due to the withdraw.

al of advertising.
Hankook welcomed Mr. Choi's release but said it had no plan to drop the criminal charges it has filed against him.

"We also want to make sure that it's a mere criminal case, not a human-rights issue as being claimed by Radio Korea, said Lee Sang Suk, a spokesman for Hankook Ilbo.

Mr. Lee said his newspaper was considering filing a separate civil suit seeking financial compensation.

As one of the conditions of his release, Mr. Choi cannot leave South Korea until his case has been closed. No date has been set for his trial.

Mr. Choi's wife, Choi Young Yun, said, "All bis travel documents, includ-Hyundai group.

Hankook filed a libel lawsuit against ing his passport, have been seized by ing his passport, have been seized by ing his passport. He can't leave Mr. Choi, accusing him of malicious immigration officials. He can't leave

INTERNATIONAL

Defense of Virginity Tests Enrages Turkish Women

By Stephen Kinzer New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — Outraged Turkish feminists are demanding the resignation of the cabinet minister in charge of women's affairs after she defended the traditional practice of subjecting women to virginity tests.

In rural areas and urban neighborboods populated by migrants from the countryside, parents and future husbands often take young women to be tested, either because of an impending marriage or sometimes merely if they are suspected of sexual activity.

The minister, Isilay Saygin, has often seemed proud of her anti-feminist stance, asserting at various times that for Ms. Saygin's resignation. "women don't want to take part in polities" and that "three women don't

Mesut Yilmaz's cabinet in June provoked some protests, but the campaign for her removal began in earnest after the publication last week of an interview she gave to an Istanbul newspaper.

Asked what she thought of virginity testing, she replied: "It doesn't bother me. I do whatever Turkish tradition and

customs require of the family. "Educating children is the duty of the father and mother," she asserted. "The state is the father."

Reminded that some young women have committed suicide rather than face the results of virginity tests. Ms. Saygin said: "Girls who committed suicide because they were forced to take a virginity test would have committed suicide anyway. I don't think this is really important.

Five or three girls, it doesn't matter." These and other comments infuriated feminists, many of whom have been grumbling about Ms. Saygin since her appointment.

'To be able to say that three or five women might die is not something out of the blue," said Halime Guner, co-founder

of a women's group called Flying Broom.
"She has always been like that."
Even one of Ms. Saygin's senior aides,
Selma Acuner, disavowed her comments. "Virginity tests are a violation of
individual rights." the said. "Pagetions individual rights," she said. "Reactions are pouring in to our ministry."

The case may prove a booo to the small but growing women's movement in Turkey. It has brought feminist groups together with more mainstream orga-

U.S. Accuses Firm Of Planning to Grow **Stronger Tobacco**

New York Times Service
NEW YORK — The Justice Department has brought the first criminal action in its long investigation of the to-bacco industry, accusing a hiotechnology company of engaging in a scheme with a major cigarette maker to produce tobacco that had twice the nicot-

ine level of the regular leaf.
In a criminal information filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, the government charged the company, DNA Plant Technology Corp. of Oakland, Cali-fornia, with misdemeanor conspiracy to export genetically engineered seeds cap-able of yielding the high-nicotine tobacco. It said the conspiracy went on for seven years before the law restricting tobacco seed exports was repealed in 1991.

The Justice Department's court papers described the cigarette maker involved in the scheme as an unindicted co-conspirator, but did not identify it Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., however, said that it was the company so described.

Brown & Williamson acknowledged three years ago that it had been engaged in an effort to produce, in Brazil and other foreign countries, genetically engineered tobacco code-named Y-1, which could not be grown in the United States because federal regulations bar domestic production of tobacco with enhanced levels of nicotine, the addictive agent in eigarettes.

The company argued, as it did again Wednesday, that the goal of the project was not to strengthen nicotine levels in its products but simply to maintain standard levels in the hlending process.

But the U.S. charged that the aim of the conspiracy was to provide Brown & Williamson with a source of high-nicotine tobacco that it could use to manipulate cigarettes' nicotine strength.

nizations such as the Republican Women's Association, which is dedicated to promoting the sexual equality that Mustafa Kernal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, decreed in the 1920s. Women are not reluctant to participate

in politics," said the association chairman, Senal Saruhan, after Ms. Saygin's interview was published. "They have been treated as second-class citizens.

Turkish law makes no reference to the practice of virginity tests, but many parents consider them reasonable.

'Sometimes headmasters of schools bring girls in for tests, and if it is found that the girls are not virgins, they can be expelled," said Sahika Yuksel, an Istanhul doctor who is among those calling

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EDENTIAL

"Police often bring women in for tests ics" and that "three women don't if they are found in a flirtatious or roqual one man." if they are found in a flirtatious or romantic situation, "she said, "If they are
Her appointment to Prime Minister not virgins they can be charged with practicing prostitution or brought back to their families, where they often face serious problems.

BRIEFLY

Netanyahu Urges United Peace Effort

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scrambled to defuse tensions with Washington and his defense chief Thursday, urging unruly coalition partners not to stand still on Middle East peace.

Throwing down a challenge apparently aimed at hard-liners opposed to ceding West Bank land to the Palestinians, he said, "If you believe what I believe, you'll join me, and if you doo't, you'll part with me.

Mr. Netanyahu spoke during a Middle East visit by the U.S. special envoy, Dennis Ross, and in the face of a threat by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, a relative moderate, to quit unless Mr. Netanyahu picked up the pace of peacemaking with Palestinians.

Angola Takes Over Diamond Region

LUANDA, Angola - The government said Thursday it was in full control of diamond-mining areas in a rich northern valley from which the former rebel UNITA movement

had withdrawn.

"The government is oow in complete control of all the mines in the Cuango Valley," Higino Carneiro, deputy territorial administration minister, said. "We took over the last one on December 31." Western diplomats confirmed that UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, had withdrawn from its Cuango

mines, which produce some of the country's best gerns.

They said the movement, which is now in formal parliamentary opposition to the government, had anoounced this on its radio statioo in early January.

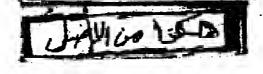
Chile House Rejects Pinochet as Senator

SANTIAGO - Chile's lower house of Congress has passed a nonbinding resolution rejectiog General Augusto Pinochet's plan to step into a Senate seat that he is constitutionally allowed to keep for life.
In a 56-to-26 vote Wednesday on

the largely symbolic resolution, the lawmakers expressed their "rejection and repudiation" of the plan.

The declaration, opposed by rightist legislators, said General Pinochet's presence in the Senate does not contribute to reconciliation among Chileans nor to the encounter among civilians and mil-

The constitution, written during General Pinochet's 1973-90 term io power, allows him to become a senator for life after steppiog down as army commander, expected in the next few weeks. He has said he will take up the seat.



EUROPE

Blair Sees 'New Era' of EU Relations

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By Tom Buerkle

International Herald Tribune

sion, the executive agency of the Union, Mr. Blair said that despite sitting on the

sidelines of monetary union for now,

Britain would play a constructive role in

leading a series of meetings culminating

in the selection in early May of the countries that will adopt the planned

Mr. Blair also pledged to get mem-

bership negotiations with five East

European countries and Cyprus off to a

good start in March, and to press for

reforms of EU farm and development policies that are a precondition for en-largement. Other British priorities for

the six-month presidency include com-

pleting the single market, focusing EU employment efforts on labor-market re-

form, education and training, and trying

to bolster EU cooperation in fighting

crime and air pollution.

The presidency 'presents a very great opportunity for Britain to show that by being constructive and engaged

and positive, we can play a leading role in shaping Europe's future on the issues

On other issues, Mr. Blair said Britain

would present proposals to deal with a

recent influx of Kurdish immigrants at a

meeting of EU foreign ministers on Jan.

26, but he said solutions were "not

He also appealed to Turkey to take up the offer of a seat at a conference be-

tween the Union and applicant countries

in Eastern Europe, and insisted that the

Union would open membership talks

with Cyprus in March despite Ankara's

threat to annex the island's Turkish half.

He said it was vital that Turkey 'does

feel able to develop closer relations with

The bulk of the EU agenda for the next

six months is effectively predetermined,

and Mr. Blair's line on issues like crime

and jobs contained no radical departures

from Britain's previous Conservative

government. But his positive tone was a

striking change from the confrontational

Britain and the Union under Prime Min-

isters John Major and Margaret Thatch-

er. Mr. Blair made clear that he wanted

Kingdom today."

terribly easy to find."

the European Union."

single currency, the euro.

on the Continent

influence with its European partners, and to persuade a skeptical domestic audience of the benefits of EU membership. LONDON - Prime Minister Tony

In an interview with foreign jour-Blair promised Thursday to play a leadnalists, Mr. Blair said he wanted people, ing role in the European Union as he particularly the young, to "see the Euroopened Britain's presidency of the 15pean Union as a force for good in their nation bloc, and he expressed bope that lives, both economically and socially."

the constructive approach would "open He extolled the EU as a motor for a new era of relations" with his partners peace and prosperity in Europe and insisted that the Union did not threaten After a meeting between his cabinet national identities. and the 20-member European Commis-

"I am intensely British and patriouc," he said, "but I also feel myself as part of Europe.

Mr. Blair offered a pragmatic view of Europe, insisting that people "don't want some grand vision imposed on them from on high." EU countries should increase cooper-

ation in practical areas like crime and pollution, he said, and seek to ensure economic prosperity by completing the

single European market. Mr. Blair adhered closely to the traditional British view of the Union as a cooperative venture among European countries rather than the precursor to a United States of Europe. Bot he acknowledged an EU role that goes beyond pure economic matters like the single market and a common trade policy.

"If you look at the way the world is developing, countries that have interests in common are moving closer together, and not just in an economic but in a political sense as well," Mr. Blair said. 'I see in time Europe moving closer together. But it's got to do it in a way that makes sense for each individual

Commission officials said Mr. Blair's new style, combined with Britain'a long-standing advocacy of the single market and EU budget reform, would help the agency as it prepared detailed proposals in those areas in coming months. "It's one of the governments we're closest to," a senior com-



Prime Minister Tony Blair, center, presiding over a meeting of EU commissioners in London on Thursday.

Chirac Criticizes Jospin's Jobs Policy

PARIS - President Jacques Chirac, in his first comments on France's growing jobless movement, accused the leftist government on Thursday of leaning too heavily on the public sector for job

creation.

"One day or another, the day of reckoning will come," Mr. Chirac told a group of business and trade union leaders. "How can we bankroll the state at that really matter to people," be said. Mr. Santer welcomed Mr. Blair's approach as "refreshing," and said he hoped the presidency would "transmit to the peoples of Europe the new spirit so high a level without slowing ecoof dynamism, vigor and creativity that is nomic activity and employment through once again the hallmark of the United excessive taxes."

Mounting protests by militant unemployed since mid-December have embarrassed the government of Prime

Minister Lionel Jospin, a Socialist, who made jobs creation his top priority in the June elections that put him in power.

Mr. Chirac, without referring to the protests, appeared to be warning the prime minister against a pledge of new jobs with public funds, although he said he did not object to fresh aid for those jobless in need of help.

The militant jobless, who have been holding sit-ins in unemployment offices since mid-December and took part in protest marches in several cities on Wednesday, want a "Christmas bonus" of 3,000 francs (\$500) and an immediate rise in base benefits for the long-term unemployed. The government says it protests.

does not bave the money.

Mr. Jospin, meanwhile, called for cabinet discipline Thursday after two members of the cabinet who are not in his party broke ranks and sided with the

protest by the unemployed.

Government sources said Mr. Jospin had reminded the ministers of the need for "the collegial functioning of government" and for "solidarity" at the first meeting of the year of the full

Both Sports Minister Marie-George Buffet of the Communist Party and Environment Minister Domingne Voynet of the Greens came out in support of the (Reuters, AFP)

BRIEFLY

Greece Says Turks Violated Air Space

ATHENS — Greece said Thursday that 30 Turkish jet fighters violated its airspace across the Aegean Sea and that it had scrambled its air force to intercept them.
'These flights were not part of a

military exercise. They took place from Thrace to Rhodes," said the spokesman, Dimitris Reppas. Ankara denied there bad been any

violations. The Foreign Ministry said: "Turkish jets fly rontinely over international airspace in the Aegean re-

Polish Parliament Signs Vatican Pact

WARSAW - The new Parliament of Poland, now dominated by centerright parties, ratified a treaty with the Vatican on Thursday that had been stalled for four years by the previous leftist legislature. The concordat, passed by 274 votes

to 160 with 2 abstentions, governs relations between the state and the Roman Catholic Church, to which about 90 percent of the population at least nominally belong.

Leftist lawmakers contended the

concordat would yield too much infinence to the already powerful church. The new government said the treaty posed no danger of imposing chorch influence on daily life.

Among other provisions, the treaty

makes courch marriages legally binding and provides for religious classes in kindergartens. (Reuers)

A Prodding for Italy

ROME --- Human rights groups in Italy urged the government Thursday to grant temporary asylum to all Kurdish refugees, even those not meeting the criteria for political asylum. A letter to Prime Minister Romano

Prodi signed by 13 organizations said that the government should adopt "extraordinary humanitarian protection measures for all Kurdish citizens who have come from Turkey and Iraq to flee war and violence.

Security officials from Turkey and six European Union states were meeting in Rome on Thursday to come up with a response to a recent wave of Kurdish refugees.

For the Record

The police in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands arrested a German psychologist hours before they say she planned to lead followers of her religious sect in a mass suicide. Heide Fittkau-Garthe, 57, was arrested late Wednesday on charges of attempting to induce suicide, an Interior Ministry representative said. The authorities said 30 members of the sect planned to kill themselves sometime before 8 P.M. Thursday. when they believed the end of the world would come and a space ship would pick up their bodies.

Kiev Doubts Any Collapse at Chernobyl There are visible cracks in the crum-

KIEV — The foundations of the concrete sarcophagua covering the Chemobyl nuclear power plant's fourth reactor are weakening but are not close to collapse, Ukrainian officials said Thursday.

"The foundations get worse and worse each year," Artur Korneyev, deputy director of operations at the entombed reactor, said at the plant, 120 kilometers (70 miles) north of Ukraine'a

But there's no serious deterioration," he said.

attitude that marked relations between The reactor exploded on April 26, 1986, spreading a radioactive cloud with the presidency both to enhance Britain's consequences. Hundreds of thousands of radioactive dust.

of people in Ukraine and neighboring Belarus had to be resettled away from bling casing, and one Ukrainian news land contaminated around the plant. If the concrete sarcophagus construc-

ted after the accident collapses, tons of boring Belams.

leased when a building collapses, the dust would contaminate a wide area," he

agency reported this week that the roof was close to collapse. Last month, the European Bank for

radioactive dust in the stricken reactor Reconstruction and Development said repair work on the reactor could start in Twelve countries, the Group of Seven

said Kostvantyn Rudya, adviser on nu- industrialized nations and the European Community have pledged close to half of the estimated \$760 million cost of the reconstruction plan.

The job is expected to take a decade to

Some experts estimate that the leak-meters (5,200 cubic yards) of radiodisastrous environmental and human ing sarcophagus contains about 34 tons active waste had been removed from the

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Iran and America

Americans accustomed to Iranian clerics fulminating against the United States may have been pleasantly surprised to encounter Mohammed Khatami oo CNN Wednesday evening. The new president spoke admiringly of American civilization, sprinkling his comments with respectful references to the Pilgrims and Abraham Lincoln. He called for cultural and education

exchanges betweeo Iran and America. But for all the friendly gestures, the hard edge of Iran's hostility to America was still present. By the end of Mr. Khatami's interview, with Christiane Amanpour, it was clear that there would be no quick healing of the rift between Tehran and Washington. Changing the tone of Iranian rhetoric

about the United States is itself an achievement, and Mr. Khatami may have gone as far as he could for now, given the resistance of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, to better relations with Washington. Mr. Khatami in the interview was the first franian leader since the 1979 revolution to offer even a hint of remorse over the seizure of American hostages then. But he badly miscalculated in thinking that

the American people do not share their government's grave misgivings about franian policies and behavior.

Mr. Khatami's attack on the American government as the cause of poverty and oppression around the world was crude and rigidly ideological. His complaints about American policy toward Iran were simplistic, although not entirely without merit on the question of Washington's blind support for the corrupt regime of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. His remarks seemed to leave little room for a dialogue with the Clinton administratioo about such matters as Iranian support for terrorism, opposition to the Middle East peace effort and efforts to develop ouclear weapons. His characterization of the Israeli government as a "racist.

terrorist regime" was offensive. The years of enmity between Washington and Tehran should end. The hostility no longer serves the interest of either nation. But it cannot be eliminated, or even productively addressed, if Mr. Khatami will not countenance direct discussions with the American government

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Algeria Cannot Be Left Alone With Its Horrors By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The atrocious butcheries in Algeria have reached a dramatic new scale just as public opinioo in the West is turning from ignorance to apathy to outrage. There is a com-parison with Bosnia in the sense that it took a year or more for people elsewhere to realize the horror and then begin demanding with increasing in-sistence that their governments "do something.

European governments, and to a somewhat lesser extent the U.S. government, are facing that kind of public pressure oow. They recognize that they can no longer pretend not to ootice. But so far they cannot think of what to do beyond express repugnance, and talk to each other about it.

There is lots of talk going on. Algeria is on the agenda of practically every European Union meeting, and Washington is checking the European capitals. Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, has proposed the dispatch of an EU special mission to look into the situation and see what might be done to help suppress the terrorism and aid the victims.

The Algerian government has not yet officially responded, but it has reected all previous suggestions as intolerable interference.

It denies the scope of the killings despite documented reports in the Algerian media, whose journalists have shown awesome courage at the real risk of their own lives, and claims that it is getting the situation "under control." There can be no question of sending

in outside force so long as the Algerian government is recognized as legitimate and refuses any kind of intervention or mediation. In any event, what would foreign troops or advisers do? What would be their mission? There is oo nseful answer.

Does this mean that nothing can be done except gasp in dismay, issue statements and perhaps pass resolutions? People in Algeria feel abandoned. They can't believe that no one will help to stop such crimes against humanity, but they don't know where to appeal. The Algerian government angrily

denounced as "unacceptable" a formal French statement condemning these "acts of barbaric savagery" and noting the "legitimate right of the Algerian population to be protected." France, which has been generally supporting of the appropriate of the appropri portive of the government up to now

despite its special importance to people here, did not specify who is to blame.

The role of the government and army has been murky. There are rumors that sometimes they have been responsible for crimes in order to rally the disaffected population against Islamic extremists fighting for power. There have been no proofs. But it has been widely noticed that even when there have been military installations quite nearby and the massacres go on for hours, no one has come to the defense of the victims.

It is a poignant example of the dilemma of the law of nations, the right of unquestioned sovereignty versus the duty to provide the most basic human right, the right not to be murdered.

So it is essential to find a way to put some pressure on the Algerian govemment. A coalition of important countries - and it must be coordinated - should tell the government that if it is anable to protect its people, they will be sympathetic to a request for help. And if it is unwilling, they can no longer provide international support through such institutions as the World Bank and credit arrangements.

This is not sanctions, which almost surely could not be organized and would disrupt the world oil market beand kept a low profile on the issue youd what anybody is ready to accept

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ishment on the suffering population.
Is it blackmail? Yes, and well justified, leaving it up to Algiers how much it wants to be inconvenienced and isolated. The benefits of full participation in the international community require the observation of certain minimum human standards.

It would be of great help if Islamic authorities, voices of the religious community as well as of governments, spoke loudly to denounce the murders as violations of the meaning of Islam.

Surprisingly, the Iranian government, which Algiers has held responsible for supporting the terrorists, has openly called for measures by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to "prevent such inhuman acts.

Western governments can quietly encourage friendly Arah states to join the chorus of opprobrium.

Something does have to be done. It is not easy, because the familiar tools do not work. It takes creative diplomacy to find the effective pressure points. Just to give up and weep in despair helps oo one. This is what the concept of international community is supposed to be about.

The Nichols Sentence

victed of conspiring to commit the worst act of domestic terrorism in American history yet acquitted of the act itself, convicted of manslaughter in the deaths that it caused but acquitted of murder for those same deaths? It is no great surprise that the jury in the trial of Terry L. Nichols, having rendered a verdict this internally inconsistent, has deadlocked on whether Mr. Nichols deserves death.

On one level, the death penalty is the ohvious sentence; it seems outrageous, after all, to execute someone for a street murder but to let live a man who plotted to hlow up a building where 168 innocents would die.

On the other hand, the jury had its reasons for distinguishing Mr. Nichols's crime from that of Timothy McVeigh, who was sentenced to death, and that distinction should, perhaps, be translated into a less severe punishment.

An internally inconsistent verdict is not occessarily illegitimate. Juries do not act with a single mind. There are compromises between jurors who believe one thing and those who believe another. Verdicts represent the judgment that 12 independent processors of the same information can all live with.

In Mr. Nichols's case, some jurors thought that he played only a small role in the bombing, while others thought his part much larger. Jurors were concerned about the possible existence of the elusive John Doe No. 2 and about perceived inadequacies in the govern-

What all of the jurors could agree on was that Terry Nichols played some part. That, of course, is deep guilt indeed, but the law properly requires unanimity among the jurors before the death penalty can be applied. The system does not fail whenever a jury lacks

this broad agreement. Politicians widely praised the jury system when it worked for them in Mr. McVeigh's trial. They may be equally quick to criticize it now that it has not given them what they wanted in Mr. Nichols's case. This instrumental view of the justice system does it a disservice, as do plans to try Mr. Nichols again in Oklahoma state court for the murders of the bombing victims. The government has had more than a fair chance to present its best case against Mr. Nichols, His prosecution involved an enormous production, and it was not hampered by ineffective prosecotors or other obvious encumbrances. It was witnessed hy jurors who seem to have deliberated their hearts out - several emerging in tears from their meetings.

After lengthy, detailed testimony be-fore a judge who ran a smooth and serious trial, these jurors were convinced that the government's case had certain limited deficiencies. Mr. Nichols's guilt, they determined, was proven but not total. This conclusion is due deference. Mr. Nichols is not going to escape unpunished. He should spend the rest of his life in prison, and he probably will. There is oo reason to view this latest result as a miscarriage of justice.

Japan: The Wait for Economic Reform May Be Long

By Tom Plate

OS ANGELES — If 1997 was the year of China, with the historic takeover of Hong Kong, coronation of a new leader and summit with America, 1998 should prove the year of Japan, for better or for worse.

Probably for worse. It would be a timely moment indeed for long overdue changes from the world's second-largest econo-my, but the so-called too-higto-fail natioo doesn't look ready to make many. It could be a long year for everyone.

No one is saying it publicly, bot Japan is in danger of becoming a regional menace. Its head-in-the-sand policy of seeking to escape further recession by peddling its own goods while protecting its mar-kets and keeping its policy mind closed raises serious ethical questions about the role of this world power in Asia.

PARIS — The 50th an-niversary of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights

the shocked aftermath of the

That declaration reiterated, in

occurs oext December.

gate astonishing policies. Last spring his government virtually doubled the sales tax, further suppressing the inclination to spend. That threw other exporting Asian nations into renewed despair that Japan will ever be the consuming savior of their

cheap manufacturing industries. How moch will America and Europe by themselves be able to import? Only a domestically stimulated Japanese economy with markets open to imports can reinvigorate Asia's out-ofbalance regional economy.

But except for the planned 'big bang' reforms designed to open domestic financial busises to foreign investment and involvement, reform isn't in the Japanese air; denial is. "There is absolutely no

sign," writes the respected Jap-Prime Minister Ryutaro Ha-shimoto cootinues to promul-Akio Ogawa in the Asahi Even-

ing News, "that Hashimoto, the ruling party, the hureaucracy, banks and other businesses behind them might take the strong but curative medicine."

Warns a recent report from the U.S.-Japan 21st Century Committee, co-chaired by former prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa: "The first task for Japan, which is 20 years behind the global trend toward liberalization, is to reform its economic structure and the social structure which supports it ... It must achieve a scale and speed of reform that will make up for

20 years' delay."

Japan is the deluded prisoner of its own spectacular sell-toothers/buy-our-own formula. Its establishment seems determined to preserve as much of its insular system as possible.

What does the world want Japan to do? "Backs to the wall,

People Have Rights, but They Also Have Responsibilities

we say, the Japanese have no choice but to free their economy, deregulate their markets, privatize everything and in general get with the program we call globalization," writes Patrick Smith in the Washing-

ton Quarterly. Don't hold your breath, though, advises this author of the provocative new book "Japan: A Reinterpretation": "We seem to think we are watching a short, while in my view we are

in for a very long movie." Mr. Hashimoto's policies are not even working for Japan, much less its Asian neighbors. Last year the yen depreciated by about 12 percent, and overall the Japanese stock market de-clined by 21 percent.

In December, reacting to all the criticism, Mr. Hashimoto proffered a relatively piddling tax cut in an ineffectual effort to compensate for the damaging April blunder, That is oot oearly

enough to stimulate the domestic spending and consumption that would soak up goods from places like Indonesia and Thailand, not to meotioo America.

If the ecocomy does not improve and Mr. Hashimoto stays on, you can anticipate stormy Japanese-U.S. relations. As the U.S.-Japanese trade imbalance widens eveo more wheo Japan seeks to climb out of its recession hy exporting goods made cheaper hy the yen's devaluation, U.S. politicians will

start bashing Japan again. That might prompt the Japanese public to rally around Mr. Hashimoto if he predictably lashes back.

If Japan continues on its resent course, it will have only itself to blame if it drags the region's economy onto a continued downward slide, thus triggering worldwide retrenchment and recession.

Los Angeles Times.

Playing Dangerously

Death during recreation is nearly always accidental, and an accidental death is, by definition, a preventable death. The skiing accidents that killed Michael Kennedy and Sonny Bono would never have happened, or so it is easy to say after the fact, if Mr. Kennedy had not been playing football and Mr. Bono had stayed out of the trees.

In the aftermath, the risks seem unacceptable. But in the momeots before both accidents, the risks must have seemed perfectly reasonable to buth men. They did not huy lift tickets in the hopes of toying with death. Few skiers do. Nor did Anatoli Boukreev, the Russian mountaineer who died in an avalanche several weeks ago, begin his ascent of Annapurna intending to flirt with extinction.
But the chance of serious injury and

death is always there, especially as the popularity of extreme sports increases.

That is why nearly every true sophisticate of an inherently risky sport anything from surfing to mountaineering - tries to offset risk with preparatioo. The higher the degree of conditioning, experience and mental discipline an athlete enjoys, the higher the degree of risk he can accept.

The point is not usually to pursue risk per se, but to pursue a level of physical and mental challenge that increases eveo as the risks atteoding failure increase, too. Danger intensifies concentration, but concentration is nearly always a means of diminishing danger. That is the simple equilibrium of every hazardous sport.

What the numbers show is that most dangerous sports, incloding skiing, are safer than bicycling or kill fewer Americans annually than showering. It is tempting to count op the recreational deaths that occur each year and to moralize upon their ironic futility - not because they were accidental but be-

cause they occurred during recreation. The historian Stephen Pyne argues that the character of fire has been changed by humans, made an artifact of culture and not wholly of nature. The same can be said for death. Biologically, we still die in all the old ways, but the instruments that deliver us up to hiological death are as modern, and as fashionable, as the moment.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment Algerian Humiliation

Among all the Arabs who suffered humiliation under the Ottoman, British and French empires, Algerians have felt the most definitively humiliated of all. But today one is more humiliated in Algeria than ever. Precisely because there was a grand opportunity to emerge from humiliation with indepeodence, sacrifices, oil, gas, trained elites, a rebelling people and marvelous youth. Rarely, very rarely, has a country wasted so many chances so radically and so quickly.

- Jean Daniel, commenting in Le Nouvel Observateur (Paris).

By William Pfaff

Second World War, what earlier was affirmed in the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution, and in the ern in origin and philosophy. French Constituent Assembly's The UN declaration has been Declaration, in 1789, of the Rights of Man and Citizen. All say that humans possess rights, which civilization must respect. This argument rests on the no-

tion of 'natural' law, developed in the Middle Ages and reaffirmed in the 18th century Scottish and French enlightenments. The existence of natural law was beld to imply the existence of rights that people possess by virtue of what they are, and because of their natural relationship to one another in society.

just and moral. An affirmation of human rights is a statement case of the UN declaration, the statement was essentially West-

criticized as hypocrisy, since many of the governments voting for it in 1948 neither respected nor intended to respect any claims by their citizens which limited their power. But even hypocrisy has its uses, and the universal declaration bas significantly influenced events since 1948 by making the defense of human rights an issue in international relations.

Other criticisms have come from Asia, where it is said that the Western concept of human

tors have replied by saying that Asian criticisms of these Westabout the nature of society. In the ern ideas are often equally hypocritical, serving simply to defend arbitrary government.

There is nonetheless a legitimate argument which says that the Western emphasis on individual rights can be socially destructive and neglects the claims of society and community.

By affirming an individual "right," one makes a claim on society that is dissociated from responsibility. We say: You must grant me my pursuit of happiness. However, my pursuit of happiness may prove to be at your expense. My freedom

of enterprise may ruin you. The conventional response in the West is that the rights of one

should stop when they infringe the rights of another. But this A right is "that which is morally just or due." This presupposes agreement about what is solidarity. Western commentative, if usually means that if you infringe my rights I'll sue you. A group of 24 former chiefs

of state or government, including former prime ministers of Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Japan, and ex-presidents or prime ministers from the United States, Canada, France, Brazil and other countries, have now published a draft Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities.

Their chairman is former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. They propose that their declaration oo responsibilities be adopted by the UN General Assembly on the an-niversary of the human rights declaration in December.

Their document begins by saying that "the exclusive insistence on rights can result in conflict, divisioo and endless dispute, and the neglect of human responsibilities can lead to

lawlessness and chaos."

Also, "the rule of law and the promotioo of human rights depend on the readiness of meo and women to act justly."

The fundamental principle affirmed is that people must be treated humanely. "What you do not wish to be done to yourself do not do to others."

The declaration states that every person "is infinitely precious and must be protected unconditionally." And that dis-putes should be resolved without violence. Every person

has an obligation to bonesty and to truth in speech and action.

People have a responsibility "to develop their talents through diligent endeavor," it says, "They should have equal access to educatioo and meaningful work. All property and wealth must be used responsibly in accordance with justice and for the advancement of the

human race ...
"Economic and political power must not be handled as an instrument of domination, but in the service of economic justice and of the social order." The most significant aspect

of this Declaration of Human Responsibilities, in today's Western intellectual climate, is its unqualified affirmation of the existence of right and wrong. ''No person, no group or organization, no state, oo army or police stands above good and evil; all are subject to ethical standards. Everyone has a responsibility to promote good and to avoid evil in all things."

That takes this declaration out of the realm of platitude. It connects it to the assumption fundamental to the existence of the United Nations itself, as well as to international law and the concept of buman rights, that there is indeed a "natural" law which is connected to the nature of man, and that we owe

That also makes it a controversial document. It will be important to see what happens to it at the United Nations.

International Herald Tribune. Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: U.S. in Cuba

MADRID — An article written by Senor Castelar on President McKinley's Message to Con-gress has excited much comment. He asserts that the intervention of the United States in Cuba would be a crime analogous to the partition of Poland. Such intervention would ohlige the United States to equip a formidable fleet, to increase considerably their budget and to create an enormous army. They would end by alienating the whole of Latin America, which onght not to tolerate the encroachments of North America.

1923: German Women

BERLIN - Miss Jane Burr has discarded her knickerbockers. She has locked them in a closet on the fourth floor of an obscure pension and will appear hereafter in Berlin in a fur coat, Parisian hat and frock and mod-

est woollen stockings. After shocking London and Paris, Berlin proved too much for her, and she has discarded the male attire. Miss Burr is disappointed to find so little 'progress' among the women of Germany. and she says: "No matter bow intelligent they are, they occupy the same relative position to man - inferiority.

1948: Reds Ousted RIO DE JANEIRO - The

a bill ousting all Communist legislators throughout Brazil. The Communist party was outlawed last May and Brazil broke diplomatic relations with Russia in October. The Communist leader Mauricio Grabois said: "This is the final act of treason against democracy."
Police in front of the chamber suppressed Communist manifestations, arresting more than a dozen persons.

Chamber of Deputies approved

Herald Eribune

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By F. W. de Klerk

Africa: Keys to the Renaissance

JOHANNESBURG — Africa is falling further behind, not only behind the world as a whole but behind other developing regions as well.

From 1980 to 1992, GNP in sub-Saharan Africa declined by an average of 0.8 percent per year. One of the great chal-lenges of the future will be to reverse this trend and to ensure that the people of our continent catch up with the rest of humanity as fast as they can.

The alternative — the continuing marginalization of Africa — is simply not an acceptable option. In a shrinking world, the problems of one region will inevitably become the problems of other regions and, ultimately, of the whole world.

Diseases do not observe internacional boundaries. Instability in one region can lead to instability in others. Damage to the ecology in a region as large as Africa would harm

global ecology. Most important, the populations of developed societies will oot permit their governments to stand idly hy while hundreds of millions of people continue to live in misery and conflict. The key may be found in the

following steps.

conflict that continues to scourge too many countries. Since the Egyptian revolution of 1952, there have been 78 violent or nonconstitutional changes of government in 31 African countries. Conflicts waged throughout the continent have

Africa requires stable demo-

cratic governments. Ways must

be found to end the cycle of

caused the deaths of millions and brought about wide-scale destruction and devastation.

Fortunately, prospects for the foture seem brighter. Only a handful of African countries had functioning multiparty sys-tems before 1990. From 1990 to 1995, multiparty elections were held in 28 additional states.

Africa needs the right social and economic policies. Governments are moving away from the centralized socialist systems that shackled their potential for growth. Some countries, like Botswana and Mauritius, are proving that it is possible to achieve consisteotly high economic growth.

This will help Africa to address another pressing challenge, high population growth. From 1990 to 2000, it is estimated, Africa's population will grow by 2.9 percent per year, compared with 1.7 percent worldwide.

Africa needs help. African countries can be forgiven for sometimes thinking that the cards are stacked against them in the game of economic glob-alization. They have to labor under the burden of relatively . . . By these steps, we will be able enormous foreign debts, accumulated over the years by ir-

responsible governments.

In 1992, sub-Saharan Africa's external debt amounted to almost 70 percent of its col-lective GNP, compared with only 37.6 percent for the rest of the developing world. In addition, prices for many of Africa's primary exports have stagnated or declined since 1980. These products include maize, cotton, cocoa, cof-

fee, sugar, copper and bauxite.
The international community should find ways to help Africa help itself. Steps could include allowing African exports to enter international markets on the most favorable terms. Action should be taken to add value to primary exports before they leave Africa. Something should also be done to alleviate

the debt burden. Africa needs a clear and practical development plan. The international community, and particularly the former colonial powers, should help Africa to develop a plan incorporating the steps I have iust mentioned. Consideration should be given to key countries in each of the main regions as development partners.

These countries — such as South Africa in the southern region - should receive special attention in order to ensure that they become dynamic locomotives for growth in their respective regions. In this way, networks of development and stability could be established throughout the continent. to avoid the marginalization of

African Renaissance." Former President de Klerk contributed this comment to Forum 2000 (Los Angeles Times Syndicate).

Africa and open the way to what

South Africa's deputy president,

Thabo Mbeki, has called "the

OPINION/LETTERS

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How to Pull the Blinds On Pols, Polls, Peepers

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Your right to privacy has been - Your stripped away. You cannot walk into your bank, or apply for a job or access your personal computer without undergoing the scrutiny of strangers.

You cannot use a credit card to huy clothes to cover your body without baring your soul. Big Brother is watching as never before in America.

Encouraged by an act of Congress, Texas and California now demand thumbprints of applicants for drivers' licenses treating all drivers as potential criminals.

In the much applaoded pursuit of 'deadbeat dads,' the feds now demand that all employers inform the government of every new hire, thereby huilding a database of who is working for whom that would be the envy of the KGB.

zip through tolls at bridges and highways, electric eyes reading license plates help snoopers everywhere follow the movements of each driver and pas-

senger.

Hooked on easy borrowing, consumers turn to plastic for their purchases, making records and sending electronic signals to telemarketers who track them down at home.

Stimulated by this demographic zeroing-in. Internet predators monitor your browsing, detect your interests, measure your purchases and even observe your ex-

Nor are Big Brothers limited to government and commerce. Your friends and neighbors, the Nosy Parkers, secretly tape regular calls you make to them and listen in to cellular calls to third parties, enhancing the video surveillance of public streets by government and of private driveways by security

Enough. Fear of crime and terexcessive intrusioo into the lives polls and peepers. of the law-abiding. The ease of minor borrowing and the transformation of shopping into recreation have addicted us to credit cards. Taken together, the fear and the ease make a map of our lives available to cops, crazies and con freedom.

(Here comes the "to be sure" graph.) Crime is real; some courtordered taps of Mafiosi and surveillance cameras of high-violence playgrounds are justifiable. So are random drug and alcohol tests of ouclear-response teams. The Securities and Exchange Commission should monitor insider stock trades, and no sensible passenger minds the frisking for bombs at airports.

But doesn't this creeping confluence of government snooping, commercial tracking and cultural tolerance of eavesdropping threaten each individual American's personal freedom? And isn't it time to reverse that terrible trend toward nacional nakedness before it replaces privacy as an American

Here's how to snatch your identity back from the intruders: 1. Sign as little as possible. f the KGB. Warranty postcards are for Although it makes it easier to suckers (your sales receipt is your guarantee), and sweepstakes are devices to show your gullibility to purchasers of your

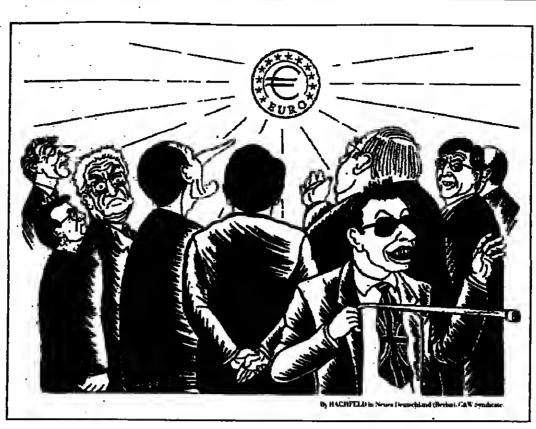
> 2. Write your local legislator demanding that a Privacy Impact Statement be required before passage of any new law, and call on your local U.S. president to con-voke a White House Conference on Privacy, thereby demonstrat-ing the sleeper issue's nonpartisan political clout.

3. Use snail mail, which is harder to intercept than e-mail. And resist mightily requests for your Social Security retirement insurance number. If you're a lawyer, take the state to court over

drivers' fingerprinting.
When a telemarketer calls, shout an imprecation and bang up. Get your kids to show you how to 'disable a cookie" and download free software that lets you surf the Web in anonymity. 4. Persuade a foundation to is-

sue a quarterly "Intrusioo Index," measuring with scholarly rorism has caused us Americans aothority the degree to which your to let down our guard against privacy is being violated by pols, Above all -

5. Pay cash. It costs less than borrowing and keeps you in con-trol of your own records. Remember. Cash is the enemy of the intruders. Use it to buy back your



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About America

Regarding "Americans and the World" (Editorial, Jan. 5):

Given the fact that Americans have their roots in other lands, it is oot surprising to discover in opinion surveys that Americans expect their country to be internationally involved.

I welcome the enlightened selfinterest of Americans that is revealed in the surveys discussed in the editorial. Not only are such self-interested attitudes likely to endure, but in Americans' case their self-interest - in economic well-being, control of global warming, AIDS prevention and so on - coincides with the international interest.

A. BOLAJI AKINYEMI. Cambridge, England.

Regarding "Life, Not Politics. Matters in America" (Opinion, Jan. 7) by James K. Glassman: Mr. Glassman gleefully in-

forms us that Americans doo't care about the oews; that a conneil seat in Washington was woo with a voter turnout of only 7 percent, and that Americans are not much interested in what their government is doing.

democracy to information so they can choose their leaders and rep-

resentatives? A government of the acy uninformed and indifferent will 17): soon perish.

VICTOR N. OSCODAR. Anglet, France.

Regarding "Cinema Verité in Europe: Rejecting U.S. Culture" (Parlicion, Dec. 16) by Richard

It is likely that Mr. Pells misunderstands why his Polish students will not go see films by

Steven Spielberg. The European students of my acquaintance are oot inclined to huy into the simplistic picture he paints of a Europe forced to choose between American values and a murky, frightening altern-

The point of calling Mr. Spielberg a hack is to distinguish him from many other products of American culture (Faulkner, Coltrane, Woody Allen). Rejecting Mr. Spielberg is not rejecting American culture, and rejecting a version of capitalism that makes oo room for social justice is not a retreat toward Soviet-style com-

> MARK LOVAS. Bratislava, Slovakia.

What about people's right in a Comparing Atrocities Regarding "Nanking's Leg-

acy" (Letters to the Editor, Dec. In what is perhaps a laudable

attempt to declare that underneath the skin all humans are basically the same (i.e., equally brutal and racist), one of the letter writers compares the World War II ravages of the Japanese and German armies to the massacre at My Lai.

Widespread references to "gooks" ootwithstanding, the revelation that several hundred Vietnamese villagers had been killed in one day by U.S. soldiers immediately brought about an uproar in American society.

In comparison, the few at-tempts in the past 60 years to simply present the Japanese natioo with a straightforward account of its army's atrocioes in the slaughter of 300,000 civilians at Nanking have been met with wholesale resistance.

Another writer suggests that because they produced roughly the same number of dead, the rape of Nanking was no less brutal than the atom bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The writer overlooks a fundamental difference; The atom bombs did not appear out of the blue but after years of grueling fighting and atrocities committed by Japan's army.

ERIK SVANE

Gorbachev Pizza Hut Ad: Unappetizing and Cruel

By Richard Cohen

lished a darkly comic oovel called "The Magic Christian," one of

\$500 hill to induce a hot dog (Frito-Lay potato chips), he

MEANWHILE

vendor to run alongside a train as it pulls out of a station. Here was a man acting like a greyhound chasing the mechanical rahhit at a dog track.
Pardon me, but that image — a

bunch of money being used to make a fool of someone — is pre-cisely what came to mind when, the other night, I happened on the new Pizza Hut TV commercial starring Mikhail Gorbachev. I felt sorry for Gorby and angry at Pizza Hut. One looked like a fool but the other looked cruel.

The commercial goes something like this: Mr. Gorbachev comes to the (actual) Moscow Pizza Hut

with his little (actual) granddaughter and takes a table. He is noticed by the other patrons.
"Because of him, we have eco-

nomic confusion," an older man Not so, says another patron, a

younger and much better-looking man: "Because of birn, we have opportunity." The debate culminates with an older woman raising a slice of pizza to Gorby and offering him the

ultimate praise: "Because of him, we have things like Pizza Hut." Something is also said about the crust, hut by then I was too angry to pay much attendon. Instead, I was vowing never again to

enter a Pizza Hut. Why? I mean, why be angry at Pizza Hut and not at Mr. Gorbachev? This is where "The Magic Christian" comes in. It acknowledges that most people will do almost anything for money.

In Gorby's case, he confessed he did the commercial for the money - a reported \$1 million which he desperately oeeded to fund the research institute that bears his name. In other words, he was hard np.
But what was Pizza Hut's rea-

soo? There can be but one: It is trying to sell even more pizza. And in furtherance of that noble, his-

WASHINGTON — Back in toric cause, it made Mr. Gorbachev an offer he could not refuse.

It also, inadvertently or not, showed that even a historic figure whose premises was that people could be corrupted, that the man who more than any other created will do anything for money. who more than any other created the post-Cold War world could. protagonist, Guy Grand, uses a like a sports figure or Dan Quayle

> bought.
> Certainly, American politicians sometimes make paid commercials. But not one of these figures, with the possible excepuon of former New York Gov-ernor Mario Cuomo, can be considered historical personages.

> figures of immense importance. Mr. Gorbachev is precisely such a historic figure — although he has yet to get that sort of re-cognition in his native land. In Russia, Mr. Gorbachev is a disliked figure, a vaguely comical pedant who got rid of one system and forgot to establish another.

ln America, though, Mr. Gorbachev gets some of the respect due him.

Not only did he preside over the collapse of the Soviet Union, he managed it without causing a war. His proudest moment should be wheo, in 1989, it seemed certain that East Germany was going to renounce communism and unite with West Germany.
Mr. Gorbachev faced indigmant

opposition from his nulitary, which cited losses to Germany in World War II and asked if the dead had died for nothing, Mr. Gorbachev let East Germany go anyway. It was a dramatic moment.

This, then, is the man whom Pizza Hut has enlisted in the selling of fast food. It is recognition that to this company he is just another familiar face, a historic figure whose accomplishments get reduced to the fact that it was during his era that Pizza Hut opened in Moscow, replacing an earlier pizza parint frequented by prostitutes and foreign correspondents. What it had in ambience it

lacked in toppings.

Terry Southern died in 1995. Besides "The Magic Christian." he was probably best known as cowriter of the movie "Dr. Strangelove." He was a biting satirist who knew that money will make people grovel. That, in a nutshell, is what Mr. Gorbachev did for Pizza Hut. I, for one, lost my appetite.

The Washington Post

BOOKS

THE DEVIL'S CHIMNEY

By Anne Landsman. 292 pages. \$24. Soho. Reviewed by Kelly Murphy Mason

THIS story has been called gro-tesque," Flannery O'Connor once said of her work, "but I prefer to call it literal," The narrator of Anne Landsman's first novel, "The Devil's Chim-oey," would defend ber story along similar lines. Certainly, the south that Connie

knows is just as deep and dark as O'Con-oor's. But it lies in another continent in the Oudtshoorn of South Africa and Connie is an admitted, unapologetic drunk. In her gin-soaked imaginatioo, caverus, dogs, ostriches, neighbors and natives become jumbled in words both English and Afrikaans. Only when she is sufficiently anesthetized can Connie bear to face a semhlance of the truth of Experience of the control of the con her present condition. That truth is far from pleasant. Connie

and her brutish husband work for the South African Tourist Board, overseeing the dog kennel adjacent to the Caves, an elaborate . subterranean village that draws Afrikaner families to its depths. Connie and Jack are childless, though theirs was a shotgun wedding. The baby was stillborn, most likely due to fetal alcohol exposure; Jack will only tell Connie that he buried it in the backyard, beside two dead dogs.

The surviving dogs are Connie's

greatest comfort, apart from the drink:
"The dogs love me no matter what," Connie says. "That's what I say to Jack when he goes oo about my drinking. As if be should talk. I'd like to see him try hrandy bottle next to him. And everybody else here. They all like a drop, especially in the evenings. You never

bouse, because in their stupors she and her busband have lost all sense of decorum. Yet Connie is as embarrassed She views them as a prurient, censorions lot, and her case against them is

fairly credible. would fixate on a foreign figure from the ability to draw fundamental distincpast Miss Beatrice, the long-dead wife tions between real and imagined horof an English lout. While the couple are rors makes her oarrative as hleak and footnotes in the sad history of the relentless as any late-night drunko-Oudtshoom, Connie is able — from a logue. Because Connie cannot comfew threadbare mementos in a local museum - to spin a fantastic yarn running parallel to ber own life.

Mr. Henry live on a sizable and isolated ostrich farm that her family purchased

Her neighbor and eastwhile lover, Mr. dividual experiences. Jacobs, schools her in the trade, but profit moove alone cannot explain her devotioo to these birds. She begins to helieve the native mythology explaining how ostriches became fierce and vul-

mation in the Caves.

Posing the central question of Landsman's novel, Connie asks, "How do you go on when bad turns to terrible?" At the bottom of her cups, Counie becomes a barroom Scheherazade, telling the thinly to sit down at the table without the veiled story of Miss Beatrice to anyone who will listen (and even to her deaf sister Gerta, who obviously cannot). Through her story, Connie tries to conknow what goes on inside people's front demons that are personal as well as English Department at George Washcollective: the ongoing terror of domestic Unfortunately, the neighbors know violence, the burnan costs of colonizall too well what goes on in Connie's ation, and the dim prospect of survival.

The Washington Post.

"Here there is always something to poison, or shoot, or chase," Connie says. Sometimes I bear screaming in the for the Afrikaners as they are for her. night and I don't know where it's coming from, whether it's animal or human, European or oon-European."

Occasionally, the screams are caused So it seems inevitable that Connie by her delirium tremens. Connie's inlogue. Because Connie cannot cominflicted oo the natives - or even oo September and Nhosa, the retainers she Like Connie, Miss Beatrice inhabits a imagines for Miss Beatrice — she loveless and violent marriage. She and relates the plight of the ostriches in

strangely sobering detail.

Any postcolonial dolt (and I count after his gambling debts drove the two myself as one) can immediately decode from England. Mr. Henry does not find the metaphor of ostriches being plucked to death. It is considerably more chal-Beatrice tries to make a go of the place lenging to decipher the significance of either Connie's or Miss Beatrice's in-

SOUTH African expatriate writing A in English, Landsman provides her readers with a glossary of Afrikaans and Xhosa terms, but the one that needs no nerable in equal measure, why it is they can fight hut not fly.

Translation — apartheid — never appears in this novel. Presumably, Landscan fight hut not fly.

This sense of entrapment pervades
"The Devil's Chimney," which takes
its title from the tag of a dead-end for
its title from the tag of a dead-end for
its title from the tag of a dead-end for
place where systematic cruehies no

converted to the succession. longer bear mention. She succeeds.

But the indiscriminate surrealism of "The Devil's Chimney" has a numbing effect on the reader, who may find Connie's conflation of the grotesque and literal too heady a brew, the sort that spawns a hangover indistinguishable from lasting despair.

Kelly Murphy Mason teaches in the ington University and is working on a collection of stories. She wrote this for

ECO-EFFICIENCY

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Livio D. DeSimone, CEO of 3M and Frank Popoff, chairman of Dow Chemical Company, with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

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— Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderal, director, UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Industry and Environment PAC.

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

Lare so unpopular that they from tournaments, preferring slightly better because, as the are hardly ever scheduled in money games in clubs. will be among the participants the organizer of the tournawhen the organizer of the tournadiamond.

When the organizer of the tournawill be among the participants the organizer of the tournawill be among the participants. There will be a prize fund of \$200,000, of which \$40,000

An Individual has two advantages. There is no sponvantages. There is no spon-sorship of partners or teams can avoid the cloh finesse, but but if he had still held a

by wealthy players, and there he needs a 3-2 spade split and diamond, playing that suit are no complicated systems in might be burt by an imme- would have conceded a ruff use. It appeals to many ex- diate heart ruff. TNDIVIDUAL competitions perts who usually stay away But six bearts is very

hearts, which at first sight

might seem inferior to six endplayed.

actual play showed, Sonth A recent such game at the may be able to avoid the club matter, however, when money is at stake. The first Omar included three players who is at stake. The first Omar included three players who is at stake. Sharif Individual was a con- are involved in the Sharif In- France and the United State

siderable success in 1990, and dividual. Sitting North and internationally, won the second is already sure to do so long the second of the sec do at least as well. It will be and Boris Koytchou, who king and ruffed a diamon of at least as well. It will be and BOTS ROYLLIOU, who have and rurred a diamon played Feb. 22-27 at the played on the first occasion. He then drew trumps ending the himself and West was Tannah Hirsch, the diamond are and ruffed the formula. When he then led to the A brisk auction led to six spade ace and conceded

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king and ruffed a diamond.	4KJ952		4764	
He then drew trumps ending	7 467 -			•
	SOUTE			
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the diamond ace and ruffed a	Q K J 10 9 8 5			
diamond.	o —			
When he then led to the	♣ A Q 18			
spade ace and conceded a	North and South were vulneral			
	- verden			
spade to West, that player was	North	East	South	Wes
endplayed.	10	Pass	10	Pas
As it happened, he had to	3 4	Pass	4.2	Pas
lead a club into the ace-queen,	67	Page	Pass	Pas
but if he had still held a	Wast lad the create six			

A Bistro That Is A Bargain Warm Comfort In Cold Weather

By Patricia Wells

ARIS - Paris diners owe a fine debt of gratitude to chef Jean-Pierre Vigato. Not only has he wooed us for years with his steady, personalized form of modern cooking at his Michelin two-star restaurant Apicius, but he has influenced a good oumber of fine, young chefs.

The newest is Francis Leveque, who for the past few munths has been playing to a packed dining room at the small bistro-style restaurant Dame Jeanne, oot far from the Bastille. Here, in a colorful. southern-inspired decor of bold ochers and sunhurst reds, scarlet linen napkins and pristine white china, he offers a model form of updated bistro fare at rock-bottom prices.

There's a deluge of "bargain" restaurants in Paris today. But weeding out those worth trying once from those worth adding to your permanent address book is another matter.

Dame Jeanne's current menu offers some soothing, cold-weather favorites, such as falling-off-the-bone braised lamb shanks, known as souris d'agneau or haut de gigot. Or, try the well-seasoned, original poirrine de veau, veal breast that had been stuffed with herbs, rolled and roasted to perfection. Served in thick slices and bathed in an even-tempered sauce, the steaming veal was surrounded by a pool of fine mashed potatoes.

For starters, there's a pretty as well as delicious terrine of tender beef cheeks (they sound better in French, as joues de boeuf) and verdant leeks. The terrine is eut in a thick slice, drizzled with a properly vinegary dressing, and served with a small, refreshing salad of mesclun, fresh mixed greens. Leveque's starter risotto - this one flavored with assorted wild mushrooms - was distinctly French and thoroughly delicious. Rather than the creamy, unified al dente mass of the Italian version, this risotto was thinner. flavored with plenty of cooking juices, and no less appealing.

JUST A SLIGHT DOWNSIDE

Alas, service in the two small dining rooms is typical of the laid-back Bastille neighborhood. No one there ever seems to be in a hurry. Even wine doesn't come your first course is on me table And since Leveque is alone in the kitchen, the wait can seem interminable. Wheo the wine does arrive, it can be

delicious. By all means sample the bargain-priced 120-franc (\$20) bottle of 1995 Beaujolais Julieuas Cotes du Bessay, from the winemaker Paul Spay, Domaine de la Cave Lamartine. To my palate, it is an ideal rendering of a fine Beaujolais: not overtly fruity, but fun and vigorous, and just serious coough to inhihit you from dancing out the door. Dome Jeanne, 60 Rue de Charonne, Paris 11; tel: 01-47-00-37-40; fax: 01-47-00-37-45. Closed Saturday lunch

and all day Sunday. Credit card: Visa. MasterCard, Menus at 110, 128 and 168 francs, including service but not wine.



Nagano: Cofor the Games or Just for Luck Amid the Sports and Spas, a Temple With a Mysterious, Unseen Buddha



Zenkoji Temple houses a Buddha that has not been seen for 305 years.

By Nicholas D. Kristof New York Times Service

AGANO, Japan — When athletes and spectators pour. as they soon will, into the city of Nagano, the bost of the Olympic Winter Games, they will encounter snowy mountain ranges, a live volcano and the chance to experience death and rebirth - symbolically - in one of Japan's greatest Buddhist temples. The temple is supposed to hring a lifetime of good luck, and its un-derground vault is the only cultural site in Japan that my children count as a rival in significance to Tokyo Disneyland.

Visitors to Nagano will see all this and more, but oone of them, not even the Japanese Emperor himself, will be allowed a glimpse of Nagano's greatest prize. That is a gilded hronze statue of Buddha with two atteedants, said to have arrived in Japan in 552 from Korea as part of the first mission to carry Buddhism to Japan. It is therefore one of and, according to legend, is invested with miraculous powers - ooe of which is to blind anyone who lays eyes oo it. That explains why it has been kept hidden away, presumably unseco for the last 305 years.

A MYSTICAL PLACE The temple where the statue is housed, Zenkoji, attracts pilgrims from all over Japan. Oue of the country's great tourist sites it underscores Nagano's role as a special kind of Olympic city: oot just a ski resort, but also an ancient and mystical spot with attractions that go far beyond the Olympic competitioo. Still, when the Games opeo oo Feb. 7,

they will put Nagano oo the global map. More important, the Japanese government has invested - probably foolishly, giveo the staggering cost -- in a oew hullet train that has made the area far more accessible. Particularly for visitors on the main Tokyo-to-Kyoto circuit, Nagano offers a refreshing detour into the heart of the country and a glimpse into the nation's soul. The Olympics will perhaps not be the best time to explore the city, for it will be crowded and traffic will be a snarl, but Nagano will be there before and after the Games — and as a result of the preparations, there are more English signs than ever. Americans will find it easier to make their way into the right dressing room for the public baths.

Nagano Prefecture is a sprawling, mountainous region, with about 2.1 millioo inhabitants. Famed for its apples, delicious and crunchy and sometimes the size of soccer balls. Nagano is a playland of ski resorts and hot springs.

When friends were visiting in November, my wife and I took them and our herd of children - three of ours, two of theirs - on a day trip to Nagano, for it offers a flavor of traditional Japan in a kid-friendly package. We began our vis-it in the prefectural capital, also named Nagano, a city of 360,000 with its share of glass-and-steel office towers. Yet somehow Nagano City manages to preserve the aura of a country town, perhaps because of the mountains that surround and humble it, or perhaps because of the refreshing chill in the air when one steps off the train from Tokyo.

After emerging from the train station, it is a one-mile walk to Zenkoji, the temple that is home to the miraculous statue. The avenue is lined with shops offering Nagano apples and other souvenirs, and it hustles with pilgrims from all over Japan, for legend has it that a visit to Zenkoji will hring salvation.

Zenkoji is said to have been built in the seventh century, but it has burned down many times. The current structure. a massive hall that is one of the biggest wooden buildings in Japan, dates from 1707. Dark brown and edged with gold, it looms over the neighborhood and is approached through two huge gates that leud a solemnity to the entire area.

is a hit like a carnival. Thousands of pigeons hustle about, and a grandmother tries to show a suspicious toddler how to feed the hirds. He looks horrified as the pigeons whir around him, and when one lands on his shoulder he begins to wail. Other visitors surround a hoge cauldroo from which smoke hillows, waving the smoke into their faces. The smoke is supposed to be good luck, so the kids in our groop frantically waved some into their faces. I tried to accept this secondary smoke as spiritual.

The interior of Zenkoji is dim and

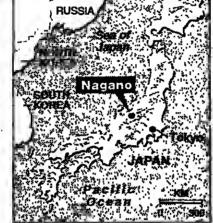
crowded, and it takes a moment to adjust to the darkness. Ohinzuru-san, a lifesize gold-painted wooden statue of a disciple of Buddha, sits in a lotus, position oear the entrance, and a stream of visitors reaches out to touch his hand, ear or face for good luck. Indeed, such groping has gradoally worn away poor Obinzuru-san's face, but still he presides over the multitude with as much dignity as a faceless sculpture can muster.

The real adventure begins in the back the main hall. It involves going downstairs into the basemeot, and stumbling along a pitch-black pathway while trying to touch a "key of paradise" that is hidden in the wall and is said to hring salvatioo to those who touch it. The pathway is not just dark, it is absolutely black - I literally could oot see my hand an inch in front of my eyes - so we held on to ooe another as the childreo advised us loudly and oervously that they weren't the least hit scared. We sured Gregory, 5, and Geoffrey, 3, that if they just kept going a hit farther, they would reach the "key of paradise" and win a lifetime of good luck. I gave them the crucial hint that the key is oo the right-hand side, about waist-high. With that they easily found it, shricked exultantly, and rubbed vigorously.

A temple official explained that the 'key of paradise' is directly below the famous statue that has been hidden for the last three ceoturies. The darkness represents your death, allowing you to be reborn as a new person.

EADY for an earthly meal upon emerging, we found the area around Zenkoji teeming with restanrants featuring one of Nagano's bestknown specialties, soba ocodles. Soba, made of buckwheat, is one of my favorite Japanese foods; it is also among the cheapest. A basic zaru soba (cold noodles dipped in sauce) is refreshing and costs only about \$5; tororo soba (hot or cold noodles served in broth and accompanied by a thick sauce of grated yam) is just a dollar or two more.

The place to stay in Nagano is oot a Western hotel but a Japanese inn, ideally one of those clustered around hot springs in the less populated parts of the prefecture. One of the most famous springs is Jigokudani, or Hell Valley. Another is Seni Onsen, where the spring is inside a natural cave. I have been planning for a couple of years to go to Seni Onsen, but



whenever I have had time the inn has been full. Most recently, I was told it was booked for about the cext seven mooths -at a rate of \$750 a night for my family of five in one room.

Apart from Zenkoji, the most interesting site in the prefecture also is underground, but it conjures up grim get the attention it should. It is the Matsushiro Headquarters network of tunnels that the Imperial Army built in the waning mooths of World War II as a refuge for the emperor, the army and the government. The plan was to move the country's leaders to a safe haven underneath a mountain, where the government could cootinue to operate. .

BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE IN ...

The tunnels are hig enough to drive a car through, and they extend for around seven miles through hard rock. But ouclear weapons would have infected even these tunnels with deadly radioactivity, and the blasting finally stopped on Aug. 15, 1945, the day of Japan's surrender. The caves were 75 percent complete.

We entered through an old air shaft, descending a set of stairs carved in the rock, where a series of electric lights provides adequate but cerie illumination. Most of the tunnels are closed to visitors, but even so we could hike for the better part of a mile down a series of

The Imperial Army forced thousands of Korean laborers and nearby Japanese resideots to huild the tunnels, and 300 to 1,000 people died in the process. Most of the dead were Koreans who died in cave-ins or explosions or clse succumbed to maloutrition, disease or soicide. Others were shot for trying to escape or for protesting the brutal around-the-clock working conditions.

In a self-lacerating plaque at the en-trance, the local authorities have written: "The historical remains of the Matsushiro Headquarters call attentioo to the Japanese invasioo of other Asian countries, as seen in World War II and the colonization of Korea. The remains forever remind us of the sins we committed during the war period."



Yet inside the gates, the atmosphere Museum at the Imperial Army's World War II tunnels at Matsushiro.

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

AGANO, Japan - Getting around Nagano, Japan, using anything other than feet these days takes about twice as much time as normal — at least. To be sure, congestion is nothing new to Nagano, the funnel through which most weekend skiers pass on their way to the Japan Alps, the breathtakingly beautiful mountains that will be home to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games Feb. 7-22.

But the current congestion, caused by lumbering tractors and tottering cranes, is a sign that — unlike Atlanta — Nagano and the five outlying villages where the events will take place will be presented for the thousands of athlese prepared for the thousands of athletes, coaches and Olympic officials and more than a millioo spectators. This, after all, is Japan, where repairmen schedule and keep — appointments at specific times, not in half-day increments.

At least half the reason this city of 360,000 wanted the Olympic Games was the public speeding that comes with Nagano kicked in about \$1 hillion, and the Japanese government has spent about \$13 hillioo in public works projects, including new Shinkansen (bullet train) service that sharply redoces the time for the trip from Tokyo. The ride takes from 79 minutes to two hours between Tokyo and Nagano, depending oo the oumber of stops on the way. There will be 24 round trips daily during the Games, with each train carrying 600 passengers. Reserved round-trip tickets are \$130; a one-week rail pass good for unlimited travel is \$231.

The old station, a wooden copy of Zenkoji, a temple that is Nagano's most famous site, was torn down; its replacement, a somewhat sterile structure could just as easily seem at home in Vail or Snowmass. But much has been done. to preserve Nagano's natural treasures. Organizers transplanted a plot of special grasses favored by the finicky and endangered Gifu hutterfly to make way for a ski run near Hakuba, the town that will be host to the downhill and cross-country events, and local children planted acoms of trees that were sacrificed for the Olympics. Even the Olympic Stadium was huilt with an eye toward recycling: When the Games are but a distant memory, Nagano hopes the stadium will be home to a new basehall

CULTURAL EVENTS

Away from the ski trails and skating rinks, visitors will find numerous cui tural events. The Tanaka Honke Museum, the home of a wealthy family during the 18th century, will have an exhibit of Hina dolls from Feb. 4 through April. Hina dolls, which represent the emperor and empress and their attendants attired in traditional finery, usually about 8 inches tall, are taken out each year during a festival for girls in March. The museum offers one of the best glimpses of the opulence enjoyed hy Japan's merchant elite. many of whom founded the multinational corporations of today. Tel: 248-8008; closed Tuesday; \$5. (The country and city codes for Nagano are 81-26.) At Nagano Station, catch the Nagano Dentetsu for Suzaka Station; from there, it is five minutes by cab.

During the Games, the Nagano Prefectural Cultural Center, 284 Wakasato. Ohaza, 226-0008, will showcase Japanese drama and music. At ooon on Feb. 8. about 1,000 students of the Suzuki method will give a free concert. Kodo, a troupe of childreo who play traditional Japanese drums, will perform at the cultural center on Feb. 10 at 6:30 P.M. Tickets, \$33 to \$41, available through Ticket Pia on the ground floor of the Nagano Statioo.

On Feb. 12 at 6 P.M., the center will offer two traditional kyogen plays, or short comic dramas, as well as a kyogen take on "Hamler." Tickets (\$33) are available at the cultural center the day of the show or in advance at 227-0011 or 227-3000.

An unusual version of kahuki will be staged at the Kitano Bungeiza, a local theater, at 1625 Nishigo-cho, 233-3111, from 2 to 4 P.M. on Feb. 14. Actors and musicians from Oshika, south of Nagano, will present a play performed in their bornetown for the last 300 years. Bot unlike regular kahuki, in which all the parts are played by men, Oshika's kabuki includes women. The show is free, with seating on a first-come, firstserved basis. It will be followed from 6 to 7 P.M. by a ningyo joruri, a tra-ditional puppet show, from lida, a city in Nagano prefecture.

The centerpiece of the Winter Games is the Olympic Stadium, in Nagano. The walls of the third floor of the stadium, designed by a team of architects at Rui Sekkei-Shitsu, an Osaka firm, represent the petals and calyx of a sakura, or cherry hlossom, Japan's national.

According to Yuichi Saito, the lead architect, when his team visited Nagano, they were impressed by the ancient Japan, the mountain god was called Sa no Kami, and his seat was called Sa Kura, which offered the architects a convenient theme for the stadium that both reflected Japan as a whole and Nagano specifically.

About 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Nagano is Hakuba, where alpine and cross-couotry skiing events will be held and the best known of Japan's "cluster" ski areas. The oame refers to both the town and the 9,619-foot (2,930meter mountain it sits oo. According to lore, a group of farmers many years ago decided that a patch of soow that always survives the summer resembled a white horse, or hakuba.

ARUIZAWA, where curling will be held, is a summer escape for the movers and shakers who run Japan Inc. It can be reached by Shinkansen from Tokyo on the same route that goes to Nagano, although not all trains stop there. The town lies at the foot of Mount Asama, one of many active volcanoes in Japan (it hasn't erupted since 1783). About an hour's bus ride from town one can walk in the lava fields. Olympic spectators who need to

warm their booes can get a free sample of sake just outside of Zenkoji's west gate at Yoshinoya, where one can witoess the sake-making process as well. Yoshinoya, 237-5000, is oear the Zenkoji-shita Station, the third stop from Nagano Statioo oo the Nagano Deo-

If you haven't booked for the Games, your chances of getting a Western-style room in one of the cookie-cotter hotels that have sprung up are slim to none.

Around Nagano, Japanese-style inns. called ryokans, are still reporting vacancies; if you doo't mind sharing a steaming hot bath and sleeping on a futon, many of them give a view of Japan that's missed in a conventional hotel. In Hakuba, owners of inns have complained that bookings are actually lower than in the past because people think they have no chance of getting a room. The Hakuba ryokan association can be reached at (81-261) 72-2279.

HOT SPRINGS Nature has provided the time-honored complement to a day of skiing: the hot tub. Hot springs (onsen) dot the area, testament to the volcanic activity stewing far below. The Ryokan Sakaya at Nozawa Onsen, one of Japan's most famous onsens, has a roten buro, a bath exposed to the sky. Rooms at Sakaya, (0269) 85-3118, range from \$147.50 to \$205 a persoo, which inclodes two meals, plus g percent tax and

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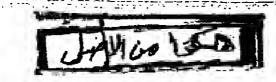
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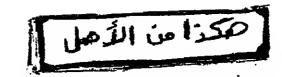
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a \$1.25 onsen tax." The Kiriya Ryokan, (0269) 85-2020. is built around a pretty Japanese garden. Rooms: \$123 to \$205 a person, including two meals, plus taxes. Nozawa Onsen is about an hour from Nagano Station oo the JR Iiyama line to Togari Nozawa Onsen Station,



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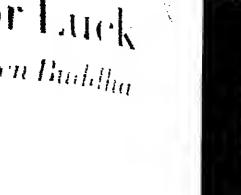
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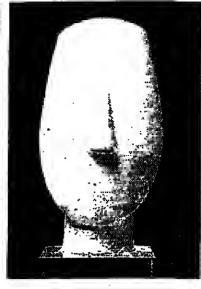
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Treasures displayed in the Louvre include a double Egyptian statue, "Lot and His Daughters" by Guercino, a bust of a woman from about 2,500 B.C., a Fayum "mummy portrait," and a Madonna and saints by Anselmi.

Grand Louvre Gets Grander With New Egyptian Galleries

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

ARIS — The inauguration of L.M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre Museum in 1989 was such a watershed that it seemed hard to imagine that it marked only the first stage of a \$1.2 hillion project to modernize the great palace of art. Still ahead lay a task that was less visually spectacular than the pyramid, but no less important to the Louvre - refurbishing and expanding its galleries and reorganizing its immense collection. Now, more than eight years later (and 17 years after President Francois Mitterrand set in motion the transformation of the

Louvre), the end is within sight. In 1993, the Louvre absorbed the northern Richelieu Wing, home to the Finance Ministry since 1820, and gained 230,000 square feet (about 21,300 square meters) of space, including three covered (but naturally lighted) courtyards for large statuary. Also in 1993 came in-

Directed by Jim Sheridan, Ireland.

In his third splendid collaboration with

Daniel Day-Lewis (including "My Left

Foot"), Jim Sheridan returns to the pol-

itics of Northern Ireland and takes a

markedly different stance about the

Troubles. Though Day-Lewis plays a

man dealing with imprisonment as he

did in Speridan's "In the Name of the

film sees a bigger picture.

Day-Lewis's Danny Flynn

was once a firebrand for the

Irish Republican Army, hut

14 years' incarceration has

seasoned him. Released from

prison and returning to every-

day life in Belfast as the film

begins, Danny yearns for the impossible: a peaceful, quiet

life. Sheridan's fine, galva-

nizing film, which teams

Day-Lewis in a love story

with the magical Emily Wat-

Waves," shares that same

taken, the film wonders how

to come to terms with so

hloody a past. It frames the

question starkly while avoid-

ing easy answers, although

the central metaphors of box-

ing and prison powerfully re-

flect a wider awareness of

Belfast's plight. Each of the

film's well-drawn characters

is embattled or caught in vari-

ous ways. "The Boxer" reacquaints

shy, lonely Danny with his long-lost

sweetheart, Maggie (Watson), even as it

reinvolves him in the turmoil that sent

him to jail. Day-Lewis, looking wearily

rugged and battling his way through

several plausible boxing matches, once

again breathes fire into the character of a

high-minded loner, and his vitality lends

real force to the film's moral arguments.

Watson beautifully conveys all of Mag-

gie's melting ambivalence about a man

who has been gone 14 years. The pain on view in "The Boxer" intensifies with

the effort to unite Protestants and Cath-

olics in a nonsectarian boxing club, with

unflagging hatred and suspicion of the police, with children like Maggie's son

Waves," shares that same yearning. Acknowledging the terrible toll that conflict has

son of

"Breaking the

Father," this more reflective and mature right?

auguration of the glitzy Carrousel du Louvre shopping mall, which leads to the museum's main reception area below the pyramid and is designed around another

glass pyramid, this one inverted. In 1997, the Grand Louvre project took several fresh strides toward completion, with installation of the Museum of Fashion and Textiles and the Museum of Decorative Arts, renovation of some galleries for Italian paintings and Roman antiquities and the opening of the Sackler Wing — financed by the American philanthropists Mortimer and Theresa Sackler - for Oriental antiquities. Finally, on Dec. 21, President Jacques Chirac inangurated a further 107,000 square feet of restored and renovated gallery space, most of it in the eastern Sully Wing.

It was this last expansion, though, that has generated special excitement because, among other things, it involved a new presentation of the Lonvre's vast collection of Egyptian antiquities. Ever since Napoleon's occupation of Egypt, 1798 to 1801, the French bave had a

MOVIE GUIDE

hooored vengefulness, and with the high

toll that violence takes on some of the

secondary characters. Yet this film, de-

spite the grief it describes, dares to

sound a note of hopefulness, too,

Sheridan tells a story of bravery, love

and renewal with the stirring conviction

that such things are possible even in

perpetually embattled places. What bet-

ter holiday wish than to hope he is right? (Janet Maslin, NYT)

love affair with the world of the around 4000 B.C. to Cleopatra and the pharaohs, fueled by the remarkable stone statues, steles and tombs that now stand in the Louvre, removed from Egypt by 19th-century French archaeologists. (Imperial powers like France and Britain preferred to think they were protecting mankind's artistic heritage rather than looting.)

5,000 Works on Show

Now with 60 percent more space for its Egyptian collection, the Louvre has increased the number of pieces on show in 30 newly restored rooms from 4,000 to 5,000 (of a total of 55,000), enabling it to boast the world's greatest display of Egyptian antiquities outside Cairo, On the first floor of the Sully Wing, the collection is presented thematically. covering everything from life along the Nile farming and hunting, to writing. dwellings, temples and funerary rites. On the floor above, the display is chronological, from the end of prehistory

back roads (carreteras secundarias) and

onto the main highways of modernity. As

a period piece, the film hrims with the

humor of Spaniards struggling ingeni-

ously to make ends meet. Veteran actor

Resines propels the drama and romance,

here displaying unusual verve, along with Maribel Verdu as his young girl-

friend. In previous films she typically

played little more than a shapely woman,

but here she delivers some credible act-

MR. MAGOO

ing. The key trio is completed

by Ramalio, a young actor

who captures the frustration

and optimism of the teen-

ager aiming to make his

mark. (Al Goodman, IHT)

Directed by Stanley Tong.

Leslie Nielsen's fleshy re-

creation of the myopic car-

toon is apt to make you gnash

your teeth. Although Nielsen

knows from bumbling — as

hilariously demonstrated in

"The Naked Gun" — he's

too coarse and edgy to suit

such a refined and warm-

hearted character. Not that he

gets any help from director

Stanley Tong. Tong. whose filmography includes the Jackie Chan vehicles "Rum-

hle in the Bronx," "Super-

cop" and "First Strike," is.

to say the least, an unlikely

choice for the joh of directing

a hlithe romp. There are some

kicks to be had in these flicks, but what

Tong knows about comedy wouldn't

fill a whoopee cushion. Penned hy "Hot

Shots" writer Pat Proft and his long-

time chum, Tom Sherohman, the

simplistic scenario concerns the hapless

hero's run-in with a ring of jewel

thieves and a pair of G-men who

wrongly suspect Magoo of stealing a

new museum. As a rule, Magoo's ex-

ploits are barely enough to sustain a four-minute kiddie cartoon, much less a

full-length feature. It also doesn't help

that the movie's opening and closing

credits feature the more amiable and

amusing animated Magoo. If anybody

is short-sighted here, it's not Magoo.

It's the studio. (Rita Kempley, WP)

arrival of the Romans around 30 B.C. Here, the Louvre has opted for a theatrical mise-en-scène, using sphinxes, marble pillars and statues to re-create the mood of the great Egyptian

In the southern Denon Wing of the museum, the Louvre has two series of new rooms devoted to later Egypt. One focuses on the funerary practices of Roman Egypt and includes painted shrouds. examples of the famous Fayum mummy portraits, several elaborate coffins and the mummified body of an unidentified man. In the other rooms, Coptic Egypt, which begins in the third century A. D. and continues through the Arah conquest ed by tapestries, writing and iconographic imagery. And, most dramatically, the monastery church at Baouit, Egypt, has been reconstructed in the Louvre.

The new areas opened to the public also include freshly restored and newly occupied rooms for Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities. The pre-Hellenic gallery, now beautifully installed in Napoleon III's former stahles, displays 300 works, one-third of them never shown to the public before, and covers the period from Cycladic art starting in 3,000 B. C. to Archaic art in the sixth century B. C. The Campana collection of Greek vases now has more space, plus new lighting and air-conditioning, in the Sully Wing.

And Roman precious metalwork ben-

efits from a new display. Finally, the Grande Galerie, the stunning 600-foot hall that borders the Seine. was reopened last month, dedicated largely to 15th-, 16th- and 17th-century Italian painting, including works by Fra Angelico, Piero della Francesca,

Raphael, Leonardo and Caravaggio. Still pending are restoration of 50,000 square feet of galleries, reconstruction of a walkway — the Passerelle Solferino over the Seine from the Tuileries Gar-dens to the Musee d'Orsay and installation of a Louvre annex to a new Museum of Mankind, Arts and Civilizations that Chirac dreams of opening in the old Museum of Man at the Trocadero.

ARTS GUIDE

THE HAGUE Mauritshuis, tel: (70) 302-34-35,

closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 29: "Princely Patrons: The

Collection of Frederik Hendrik of

Orange and Amalia van Solms in The Hague." Works by Rem-brandt, Rubens and Van Dyck.

Centro Cultural de Belem, tel: (1)

302-9606, open dally. Continuing/ To Feb. 12: "Modem Art in

Portugal, 1910-1940." A juxtapos-

ition of works by Portuguese artists and documents relating to

SWITZERLAND

Kunsthaus, tel: (1) 251-6765,

closed Mondays. Continuing/ To

De Chirico, Max Emst: Eine Reise Ins Ungewisse." More than 200

works cover 120 years of painting

from Romanticism and Symbolism

UNITED STATES

(212) 570-3791, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 8: "Jackson

Poliock: Sketchbooks and Draw-

ings." Works by the American Abstract Expressionist painter (1912-

Pierpont Morgan Literary, tel:

(212) 685-0008, closed Mondays. To April 26: "A Seel Upon Thine

Near East, ca. 3500 to 2100 B.C." Approximately 100 seals carved on semiprecious stones that use

pictorial symbols to communicate

National Gallery of Art, tel: (202)

737-4215, open daily. Continu-ing/ To March 15: "Manet and the

Impressionists at Gere Saint-Laz-

ara." How tha Peris station triggered painters' creativity, in-

CLOSING SOON

Jan. 11: "Zuloaga: Spanish Treas-ures from the Khalili Collection." Vic-

toria & Albert Museum, London.

Hypo-Kulturstiftung, Munich.

Jan. 11: "Cobra." Kunsthelle der

Jan. 11: "Johann Heinrich Fussli:

cluding Monet and Caillebotte.

PORTUGAL

Fernando Pessoa.

NEW YORK

AUSTRIA

Kunsthistorisches Museum, tel: (1) 5525-24403, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To April 14: "Brue-ghel: Tradition und Fortschritt." Paintings by Pater Brueghel tha Elder as well as paintings and works on paper by his two sons Jan

the Elder and Peter the Younger,

BRITAIN

National Gallery of Scotland, tel; (131) 332-2266, open daily. To Jan. 31: "Turner Watercolours." For more than 90 years, these 38 watercolors by the British painter have been displayed during the month of January exclusively, all the request of the donor.

Victoria & Albert Museum, tel: (171) 938-8441, open daily. Continuing/ To March 29: "Colours of the Indus: Costumes and Textiles

of Pakistan.

Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdeys, Continuing/ To Jan. 26: "Georges de La Tour,

Musee d'Orsay, tel: 01-40-49-48-14, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 2: "Wilham Hammer-shoi." A selection of paintings by Musee Marmottan, tel: 01-42-24-27-02, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 28: "Bertha Morisot." Works by the Franch Impressionist

Petit Palais, lel: 01-42-65-12-73, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 15: "Marianne et Germania, drawings, sculptures, and musical and literary items document the history of Franco-Germen rela-

GERMANY

Schim Kunsthalle, (cl: (69) 299-882-0, closed Mondays. Continuing/To March 1: "Between Heaven and Earth." Icons and illuminated wrongly suspect Magoo of stealing a manuscripts dating from the 14th huge ruby from a display in the city's lo the 16th centuries on loan from state museums in Moscow.

Deichtorhallen, tel: (40) 32-10-30, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To Feb. 1: "Francis Picabia: Das Spatwerk, 1933-1953." Late paintings and drawings by the French artist (1879-1953).

HONGKONG

Hong Kong Museum, tel: 2734-2167, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 1: "National Trea-Relics." Bronze, lade, ivory, silver and gold objects, as well as lacware end stone carving dating back to the Neolithic era.

İSRAEL

JERUSALEM israel Museum, tel: (2) 6708-811,

open daily. Continuing/ To Jan. 31: "Propaganda and Vision: Soviet and laraeli Art, 1930-1955." contrasted with Israeli works of tha same period.

ITALY

Capitoline Museum, tel: (6) 6710-2071, closed Mondays. Continueletion m'est Venua de l'Orient." Documents the influence of Oriental ert in Matisse's work.

LUXEMBOURG

Casino Luxembourg, lei: 22-50 45, closed Tuesdays. Continuing To Feb. 1: "Affinites Electives: La Peinture Europeenne en Dielogue." Brings together works by 50 European artists.

NETHERLANDS

Riiksmuseum, tel: (20) 673-2121.

3: "On Country Roads and Fields." Das Verlorene Paradies." Staats-A tribute to landscape paintings by 18th- and 19th-century Dulch

galerie, Stuttgart. Jan. 11; "Expressionismo desco: Arte e Societa, 1909-1923." Palazzo Grassi, Venice. Jan. 11: "Moments of Etemity: Egyptian Art from Private Collections," Musee Rath, Ganeva.

Edgar Degas." Metropolitan Mi seum of Art, New York. Jan, 11: "Half Past Autumn: The Art ol Gordon Parks." Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington. Jan. 11; "Thomas Moran." Nation al Gallery of Art, Washington, Jan. 12: "Prudhon, 1758-1823," Grand Paleis, Paris.



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CROSSWORD

Emily Watson and Daniel Day-Lewis in "The Boxer."

CARRETERAS SECUNDARIAS

Directed by Emilio Martinez-Lazaro.

There is plenty of magic in this slice-of-

life film set in 1974, a year before Franco's death. The well-crafted plot

centers on a bapless yet lovable widower

father (Antonio Resines) who drags his

clever 15-year-old son (Fernando

Ramallo) along on endless petty business

capers and romances that finally pry open

the truth about the father's secret history.

The clue is provided by the backdrop of

the Patty Hearst kidnapping saga in Cali-fornia, which the film's characters ob-

serve at intervals on Spanish television.

along with images of their dying dictator.

It is as if the father and son, and the nation

itself, are looking for a way to get off the

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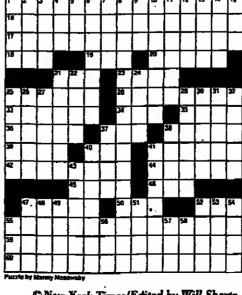
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O New York Times/Edited by Will Shorts.

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INTERNATIONAL

Khatami: 'There Must First Be a Crack in This Wall of Mistrust'

We sense an intellectual

affinity with the essence of .

the American civilization.'

Following are excerpts of the televised interview approach to religion relies on the principle that After the collapse of communism, there has been with the Iranian president, Mohammed Khatami, from a translation and transcript supplied by CNN. Introductory Remarks:

The American civilization is worthy of respect. When we appreciate the roots of this civilization, its significance becomes even more apparent.

The American civilization is founded upon the vision, thinking, and manners of the Puritans. Certainly, others such as adventurers, those searching for gold, and even sea pirates, also arrived in the U.S. But the American nation has never celebrated their arrival and never considered it to be the beginning of their civilization. The Puritans constituted a religious sect whose vision and characteristics, in addition to worshipping God, was in harmony with republicanism, democracy, and free-

Unfortunately, in the 16th, 17th, and even 18th centuries, there was a serious clash between re-ligion and liberty. In my opinion, one of the biggest tragedies in human history is this confrontation between religion and liberty, which is to the detriment of religion, liberty, and the human beings who deserve to have both.

Iranian Press

Compiled by Our Staff From Duponches

States," the paper said.
But it added that the United States

A hard-line Iranian newspaper,

however, criticized Mr. Khatami for

voicing regret in his television address to

the embassy and kept 52 Americans

hostage for 444 days, had hurt Americans' feelings. He said it was important

to note that it occurred "in the heat of

revulutionary fervor."

An editorial in the Tehran Times,

which generally reflects the conserva-

tive clergy's views, was significant in

real feelings of Iranians be conveyed to

The Times said it was essential that

The conservative daily Resalat played

Tehran radio, which along with state

down Mr. Khatami's conciliatory re-

marks and said the president had ex-

posed "the U.S politicians" crimes and

television carried the entire interview after it was aired by CNN, stressed Mr.

Khatami's critical remarks about U.S.

Many Iranians praised Mr. Khatami's

address, while others said he should have

detailed U.S. wrongdoing against Iran.

injustices in the past 50 years."

leaders in its news hulletins.

must also make efforts to mend ties.

President's

nesday with CNN.

nould our nation

taking a neutral toue.

plots" against Iran.

Western tastes?"

tues of liberty.

In terms of the dialogue of civilizations, we intend to benefit from the achievements and ex-

periences of all civilizations, Western and non-Western, and to hold dialogue with them. The closer the pillars and es-sences of these two civilizations are, the easier the dialogue would become.

With our revolution, we are experiencing a new phase of reconstruction of civilization. We feel that what we seek is what the founders of the American eivilization were also pursuing four centuries ago. This is why we sense an intellectual affinity with the essence of the American civilization.

On U.S. Foreign Policy:

Unfortunately, policies pursued by American politicians outside the United States over the past half a century since World War II are incompatible And as we see, even today Americans are a with the American civilization, which is founded religious people. Therefore, the Anglo-American un democracy, freedom and human dignity.

believe that if humanity is looking for happiness, it new enemy, and regrettably they are targeting should combine religious spirituality with the vir-progressive Islam rather than certain regressive interpretations of Islam.

On the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis: The events of those days must be viewed within

the context of revolutionary fervor and the pressures to which the Iranian nation was subjected, causing it to seek a way to express its anxieties and concerns. Today we are in the period of stability, and fully adhere to all norms of conduct regulating

relations between nations and governments.

On dialogue with the U.S. government:
The dialogue between civilizations and nations is different from political relations. In regard to political relations, we have to consider the factors that lead to the severage of relations. If some day that lead to the severance of relations. If some day another situation is to emerge, we must definitely consider the roots and relevant factors and try to eliminate them. There must first be a crack in this wall of mistrust to prepare for a change.
On Iran's alleged support of terrorism:

approach to religion relies on the principle that religion and liberty are consistent and compatible. I an attempt by certain circles to portray Islam as the of one innocent person is tantamount to the slaying believe that if humanity is looking for harrings; it of all humanity. How could such a religion, and those who claim to be its followers, get involved in the assassination of innocent individuals and the slaughter of innocent human beings. We categorically reject all these allegations.

On Israel:

I regret to say that the improper American policy of unbridled support for the aggressions of a racist terrorist regime does not serve U.S. interests, nor does it even serve that of the Jewish people. The Israeli intransigence in the course of the current peace process and its failure to honor its own undertakings has enraged even U.S. allies in the region. In my view, peace can come to the Middle East when all Palestinians, Jews and Muslims alike, can determine the future of the land. Meanwhile, we believe the United States should not risk the substantial prestige and credibility of the American people on supporting a racist regime that does not even have the backing of the Jewish people.

On nuclear ambitions:

We are not a nuclear power and do not intend to become one. We have accepted IAEA safeguards and our facilities are routinely inspected by that

gering life by stoning an Arab car.
Indge Zvi Segel said "every citizen"
of Israel should be aware of the dangers

of offending religious sensitivities. "We must remember those Nazi caricatures,"

Judge Segel said, "which were full of

hatred to the point of crasing the human

identity of the people they depicted."

Miss Suskin, who said before the ses-

sion that she was ready to go to jail for 'freedom of speech," shot back angrily:

"What kind of comparisons are you making? My drawings are Nazi? The

Nazis took actions, these were simply

She put up the posters on 20 store-froms on the Palestinian-ruled side of

Hebron nn a Friday night in June. Pros-

ecutors accused her of throwing a stone

Pigs are considered unclean by both

The court could have sentenced Miss

Suskin to a maximum prison term of

more than 20 years. But in determining

the sentence Judge Segel said he had taken into consideration the fact that

Miss Suskin was "not completely men-

at an Arab car the next morning.

drawings - so what?"

Indaism and Islam.

tally well."

Yousef Gets 240 Years for Blast at N.Y. Trade Center

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MARKET PROFILE

Agence France-Presse

NEW YORK - Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, a Pakistani convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center blast and plotting to hiow up airliners, was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without

In sentencing Mr. Yousef to a total of 240 years behind bars, Judge Kevin Duffy of U.S. District Court said Mr. Yousef would spend the rest of his life in solitary confinement with restricted visiting rights. At the sentencing hearing, Judge Duffy said Mr. Yousef was "a follower of death and destruction."

'It was your god, your master, your only devotion," he said.
"Yes, I am a terrorist and am proud of it," Mr. Yousef said. "I support terrorism."
Saying that a publisher might be

Saying that a publisher might be 'perverse enough to buy your story.' Indge Duffy also fined Mr.
Yousef \$4.5 million and ordered him to pay \$250 million in damages to ensure that any gain would go to his victims.

Six people were killed and about 1,000 injured in the February 1993 World Trade Center blast.

In November, Mr. Yousef was found guilty on 11 counts in con-nection with the blast.

The jail sentence also covers Mr. Yousef's September 1996 conviction for plotting to hlow up airliners flying between Asia and the United

That sentencing had been post-poned to avoid influencing the jur-ors in the World Trade Center tri-

Mr. Yousef's co-defendant in the case, Eyad Ismail, 26, was schednled for sentencing next Monday.

Mr. Ismail, who holds a Jorda-

man passport, has acknowledged being the driver of the truck used in the hlast, but said he did not know it contained a bomb.



Foreign Ministry, said in an editorial.

'On the whole, Khatami proved he had nothing new to say on the issue of establishing relations with the United Tatyana Suskin, in a Jerusalem court Thursday, said: "I'm not sorry."

POLICY: Turning Point in U.S.-Iran Ties?

Continued from Page 1

the American people over the 1979 hosambassadors to contribute to a secret war tage-taking at the U.S. embassy in on its neighbors?

But a year ago no one was even raising "That revolutionary action is today put on trial as an emotional act of an such a question. Then, many American early revolutionary era," the daily Kayand Middle East officials expected that Washington's investigation of the bombhan said in a commentary about Mr. Khatami's interview with CNN. "Why ing would lead inexorably toward almost minimum provoking additional diplomat-Mr. Khatami said he regretted how the ic sanctions and at most a military strike incident months after the 1979 Islamic on Iran. Officials at the Pentagon went so revolution in which militants stormed far as to identify possible targets.

the embassy and kept 52 Americans

A lot has changed since then, and

many officials in Washington and the Middle East nn longer expect such a blunt confrontation.

Instead, private discussion in the American and Saudi capitals has shifted away from the question of how Iran might be punished to how the issue of past sins hy its hard-liners might be manipulated to strengthen the hand of the moderates in Iran and erode the power of Ayatollah the American people, who can "exert Khamenei and his radical backers.

The new focus, in short, is n

The new focus, in short, is not so much on settling old scores over what may already have been done, hut nu ensuring that no Iranian-inspired terrorism occurs in the future.

A key intervening factor was the elec-tion in May of Mohammed Khatami as president: a moderate clerie who some American intelligence officials and Middle East diplomats have concluded is genuinely open to warmer relations with the West and likely to take a less provocative stance toward U.S. allies in

Among his reforms is the appoint-

Czech Finance Minister Resigns From Klaus Party

Miss Suskin's action in Hebron in

Last week, the Jerusalem District

racist act, trying to harm religious sens-

itivities, supporting a terrorist group,

damaging public property and endan-

JERUSALEM - An Israeli court,

PRAGUE - Finance Minister Ivan Pilip resigned Thursday from former Prime Minister Vactav Klaus's Civic Democratic Party. But Mr. Pilip indicated that he would remain in the new govern-

ment of Prime Minister Josef Tosovsky.

He said that he was ending his membership in the Civic Democratic Party because it had "decided not

to clarify its financial scandals."

been the driver of a surveillance car in the bombing. He told the FBI in early 1996 that an Iranian official had recruited him in 1995 to help track U.S. military op-erations in Saudi Arabia in preparation for possible terrorist attacks. But Mr. Sayegh has refused to elaborate, and the investigation has ground to a halt.

"It's very likely that we will never get to the bottom of this," a senior intelligence official said last week, saying he meant that Washington will probably never turn up the "smoking gun" ev-idence against the Iranians that would warrant a stiff U.S. response.

An approach favored by top Saudi officials is to persuade the new government of Iran to prove its bona fides by halting financial and material support to those who want to destabilize the kingdom

The Middle East official said that idence linking Iranian officials and sympathizers to the bombing, officials said.

Hani Abdel Rahim Sayegh was alleged by the Canadian authorities to have that Iran was no longer a safe haven.

al inquiries.

calls for an independent investigation of the massacres. A dispatch in the official Algerian press agency APS said the U.S. envoy to Algiers had been summoned and reminded of Algeria's "categorical rejection" of an international commission

30, about 1,000 civilians have been shot. ularly and officially suspected of being the work of Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas, but in some cases are also hlamed on government-armed militias, the security forces themselves or free-

ranging warlords and bandits.

News services and Algerian newspapers reported Thursday that about 30 more people died in two raids near Algiers and in the western region of Relizane, where more than 400 people in four villages died in a single night of carnage on the last day of 1997. This was the grisly record-setting episode that precipitated the latest round of international concern.

ALGERIA: West to Approach Government

of inquiry, "wherever it comes from and whatever its form or nature."

Since just before the beginning of the Muslim boly month of Ramadan on Dec. hacked or burned to death in nighttime terrorist assaults. The attacks are pop-

In the affected area of Relizane, about

Continued from Page 1

openness to scrutiny from the outside.
This week both the U.S. government and the United Nations' top human rights official have orged the Algerian leadership to cooperate with internation-

240 kilometers (150 miles) southwest of Algiers not far from the port city of Oran, reports said terrorized villagers were fleeing the countryside for the relative safety of the cities.

This is already the worst Ramadan in

six years of armed struggle between government security forces and a murky Even as it has reportedly consented to array of Muslim guerrilla armies seeking Liamine Zeroual continued to criticize izing the countryside. The terror campaign began after the government canceled the final round of 1991 elections that an Islamic party was on the verge of

winning.
In addition to the European Union diplomatic mission, which will most likely not be formally approved until next week, a delegation of European Parliament members is preparing to visit

Algeria in February.

According to Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a member of the European Parliament who is organizing the nine-member mission. the European lawmakers will discuss with their Algerian counterparts how their country can move from "a culture of violence" to "a state of law."

Mr. Cohn-Bendit said Algeria had an interest in cooperating with any European initiative because it seeks admission to the Union as an associate member.

The Algerian government is not likely to permit a full-scale international factfinding commission to investigate the massacres. And many Western governments are loath tn act in any way that might weaken the Algerian regime as a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism or threaten petroleum and natural gas contracts with the West.

IRAN: U.S. Ponders the Potential for Talks

Continued from Page 1

[The White House also said that Mr. Clinton's foreign policy advisers would examine the policy on restricting eal-tural exchanges with Iran in light of Mr. Khatami's remarks, Reuters reported. [The White House spokesman, Mi-

chael McCurry, asked whether the United States would consider lifting visa restrictions to allow cultural exchanges with Iran, said the rules would be reviewed: "In the aftermath of President Khatami's interview last night, that will be examined by the president's foreign policy advisers. It's way too soon to speculate on what, if any, action may result."]

A response to Mr. Khatami's speech drafted by Secretary of State Madeleine
Albright and Samuel Berger, the national security adviser, included a call

try to do it in secret." for the first talks since the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in 1979. Previous U.S. statements set conditions for such talks - that they be officially authorized and acknowledged in public

- but did not propose that talks begin. Three vital questions, all fiercely debated in recent weeks by specialists in and out of the administration, remained unanswered by the interview with the

correspondent Christiane Amanpour. Officials said they had no consensus yet on the extent of Mr. Khatami's struggle with the hard-line clerics who lead Iran, on who is winning the struggle or on what Mr. Khatami's motives may be for what nearly every analyst described as a remarkable overture.

Those who see a struggle with the

lengthy discourse on the virtues of American civilization as a model of :eligion and liberty and a "harbinger of independence struggles" for other peoples, including Iranians.

"Not only do we not harbor any ill wishes fur the American people, but in fact we consider them to be a great

nation," he said. That vision of America comes in stunning contrast to the Iranian rhetoric of

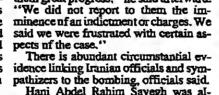
two decades, of "the Great Satan" and "the center of global arrogance" — the subjugator of other peoples, that is, and the principal source of evil in the world. "We have simply not heard anything like this before," said an administration official known for a hard-line view to-

Skeptics in and out of the administration noted Mr. Khatami's statements of allegiance to Ayatoliah Khamenei and his attacks on U.S. administrations since World War II as "adventurers" bent on

a "flawed policy of domination." They also pointed to Mr. Khatami's repetition of the formula that "supporting peoples who fight for the liberation of their land is not, in my opinion, sup-

porting terrorism." The Clinton administration, like its predecessors, accuses Iran of material and ideological support for Islamic militants, including Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, whose attacks on Israel commonly result in civilian casualties. In the interview, Mr. Khatami referred to Israel

as a "racist terrorist regime."



ment of a new minister of intelligence,

who could exercise some control over

those whom Ayatollah Khamenei al-

the anti-Western campaign.

to strike at Iran somebow.

legedly said in 1993 were to speathead

months ago, when Iran was seen as the

enemy," an official in the Middle East said. "The election was a turning point.

The official added: "It's not that they

are no longer seen as a threat. But there is

a recognition of a genuine conflict taking

place between the old guard and a more

moderate faction, and it seems Khatami

is prevailing."
Another factor is what U.S. law en-

forcement officials described as an ex-

tended Inll in Washington's closely held

inquiry into the Saudi Arabia bomhing, which the officials ascribed to a lack of

solid leads and a continuing Sandi re-luctance to provide direct U.S. access to

those imprisoned for involvement in the

who were killed or wounded were

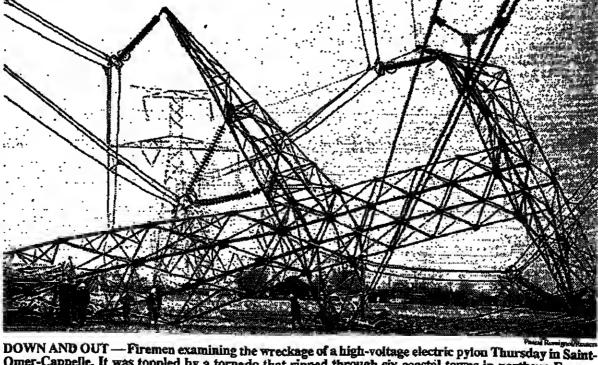
briefed on the inquiry last month, the FBI director, Louis Freeh, had little optimism to convey. "We did not report to

them great progress," he said afterward.

When the families of the Americans

blast or to share key evidence.

"It's not the same as it was four



Omer-Cappelle. It was toppled by a tornado that ripped through six coastal towns in northern France.

Mr. Khatami intended his interview as a giving a more rational, moderate image must be an authorized dialogue, it must a wedge between it and its Western other potential partners — in the Arab other potential partners — in the Arab allies. Some officials said they suspected world, in Europe and in Asia."

But open acknowledgment goes only so far, and senior officials said they did not feel obliged to disclose whether preending Iran's isolation and isolating the

U.S. policy on Iran.

Mahnaz Afkhami, director of the Foundation for Iranian Studies, echoing religious leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali The most critical disagreement some administration afficials, said: "My Khamenei pointed to Mr. Khatami's among Mr. Clinton's advisers is whether own idea is that this is more in terms of

genuine overture in the United States nr of Iran, to strengthen Iran's ties with

secret efforts in the past, most notably the Iran-contra affair of the 1980s, the Clinton administration has insisted, as the State Department spokesman James Ru-

be one that is openly acknowledged."

liminary feelers - talks about talks were in prospect or under way.

Asked whether either side had approached the other through intermedibin put it Wednesday night, that "a dia-logue between the United States and Iran Middle East policy declined to reply. aries, two officials central to U.S.

GERMANY: Surveillance Returns

Continued from Page 1

*This represents a massive violation of the constitutional protections and editorial privacy, 'said Hermann Meyn, chairman of the national union of journalists. "Informants will no longer feel safe talking with journalists in their homes or in their offices. We will not lie down and accept the loss of this press freedom.

Leaders of the Social Democrats. whose support was necessary because they control the Bundesrat, the upper house of Parliament, said they agreed to back the legislation after winning assurances that some professional groups. such as priests and lawyers, would not be subjected to eavesdropping. They also stressed that police would have to obtain court permission in advance for any kind of surveillance activity.

The restrictions on telephone taps and mail intercepts were relaxed only during a national emergency two decades ago when Germany confronted a wave of terrorist activities.

Gerhard Vogler, chairman of the Gernan police union, said law enforcement groups were gratified that for the first time they would be able to use eavesdropping equipment in private residences after a crime has been committed

in order to gather evidence. But he lamented that the legislation could prove too little and too late in coping with the escalation in car thefts. drug trafficking and prostitution rings now practiced by international crime syndicates across Europe.

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Yousef Gets 240 Years for Prudence Blast at N. Prudence D., Zuric'

Trade Cente By Zurich Pays Off

Insurer to Renegotiate Investment in Peregrine

By Philip Segal
Special to the Herald Tribune

HONG KONG - As one of the first big Western buyers to snap up bargains amid the wreckage in corporate Asia, Zurich Insurance Co. of Switzerland provides a lesson for those still shop-ping around: Leave yourself a way out.

That strategy by the fourth-largest European insurer proved useful Thursday, as the company reached agreement on renegotiating what had been a rap-idly souring \$200 million deal to buy a minority stake in Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd., one of Asia'a largest investment banks.

Trading has been suspended for two days after Peregrine's stock plunged as the deal appeared to be faltering, after it emerged this month that Peregrine may be owed \$270 million from a single borrower in Indonesia with links to the

family of President Subarto.

A shareholder meeting by Peregrine scheduled for Friday to approve the sale was postoned Thursday morning until further notice, but in the afternoon an approximation of the sale was postoned to be sale with the sale was postoned to be sale was postoned to be sale with the sale was a sale announcement from Peregrine, released to the stock exchange, said that Peregrine and Zurich had "agreed in principle on revised terms of the sale." The company said a further, more detailed, announcement would be made Friday.

Philip Tose, chairman of Peregrine, said that the proposed "definitive agreements" with Zurich Centre Investments, an arm of Zurich Insurance, were

reached Thursday.

A Zurich spokeswoman, Iris Roth, declined to confirm the Peregrine announcement, Zurich shares fell 8 Swiss francs to 691 francs on Thursday. .

In November when the deal was anoounced, with Peregrine being battered by securities losses from the regional economic crisis, Zurich appeared to many to have snagged a bargain, as it managed to secure a veto over major Peregrine board decisions in exchange for less than a quarter of the shares.

But this week the Zurich-Peregrine deal ran into trouble, when Peregrine's Indonesian debtor, a taxi and bus company called Steady Safe, was unable to get regulatory approval to raise money by issuing new shares. Now, according to several reports - on which a Peregrine spokesman, Tom Grimmer, declined to comment - Steady Safe may owe Peregrine as much as \$270 million. That is worth close to a third of all of Peregrine's capital.

Overall, Peregrine is trying to raise \$295 million from three outside investors, the largest by far of which is Zurich. The second-largest investor, First Chicago International Finance Corp., a subsidiary of First Chicago Corp., has agreed to buy a stake for \$50 million.

Now, although the transaction with Zurich appears to be proceeding, analysts are still wondering how Zurich could have approved the original transaction when Peregrine was owed more than 25 percent of its capital base by one client. The problem illustrates bow difficult it can be in Asia to assess the financial health of an acquisition tar-

It is still not clear how moch Zurich knew about Peregrine's Indonesian debt when it completed its due diligence process in July.

"As a matter of policy we never comment on the details" of a transaction, Ms. Roth of Zurich said. One Peregrine analyst said that

Zurich would not have received a breakdown of Peregrine's various debtors. 'When you look at the company's balance sheet," the analyst said, the Steady Safe loan would probably have been "in some column lumped together

with other things." However, an analyst who follows Steady Safe in Jakarta said that at least some of the Steady Safe debt to Per-

egrine was well known. What's been known in the market," the analyst said, "is that Peregrine made

See PEREGRINE, Page 15

| Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Section | Sect



STRICTLY TOP-DRAWER - Rolls-Royces and Bentleys outside the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club in Paulerspury, England, on Thursday while their owners discussed a bid for the company. Page 13

Yen Is Left on Its Own After Top Officials Meet

Analysts See No U.S. Intervention to Stem Fall.

By Clay Chandler and Paul Blustein

tween Asia's financial crisis and Ja-pan's financial health were highlighted Thursday after a meeting between top finance officials of Japan and the United States failed to result in concerted intervention in currency markets to prop

up the yen.

The dollar's astonishing strength in recent days has sparked a scramble for the large at the lar the U.S. currency in Indonesia, Thailand and other Asian countries, sending their currencies tumbling to record lows and threatening to wreck IMF-led rescnes for the most financially strapped

The Clinton administration, the International Monetary Fund and many private analysts agree that the Asian crisis is unlikely to abate unless markets see persuasive evidence that Japan's economy, by far the largest in Asia, is set to grow. That is both because growth in Japan would spur demand for products made in neighboring countries and because such growth would help

reverse the slide in the yen against the Also on Thursday, financial industry sources said that banks in the United States, Japan and Europe were likely to agree to extend for up to 90 days a previous accord to roll over their loans to South Korean borrowers.

Although bankers cautioned that the deal was not final, such a move — in which lenders would refrain from insisting on repayment when the debts come due in the next several weeks would give Seoul some badly needed breathing room in its struggle to obtain enough dollars to protect against a massive default by Korean borrowers and put its financial system back on a sound footing.

Vice Finance Minister Eisuke Sakakibara of Japan, after the meeting

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

20-day 90-day 90-day

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Key Money Rates

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1-year Treasury bill
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Wednesday with Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, said Washingtoo and Tokyo had - WASHINGTON - The links be- agreed to continue cooperating in foreign-exchange markets in the wake of the yen's cootinued weakness against the dollar, but declined to comment on the issue of concerted intervention.

> Japan's central bank is likely to intervene to defend the yen if it falls further against the dollar, but the United States will hold back from selling dollars, analysts said on Thursday.

> "The U.S. has made it very clear that it is not concerned about the weak yen,' said David-Brickman, an international ecocomist at PaineWebber in London.
> "In fact, the U.S. is reaping the benefits of a stronger dollar in terms of low inflation.'

> Treasury officials were careful to avoid any suggestion that they were at loggerheads with the Japanese government, as a standoff between the United States and Japan is thought likely to exacerbate Asia's financial crisis.

> In their comments, however, they made no effort to dispel the view that they are reluctant to intervene in currency markets in the absence of major new initiatives by the Japanese.

In a conference call with reporters before the meeting Wednesday, Mr. Summers said: "I would expect Treasury discussions will, in general, focus on crucial issues of Japanese economic policy, including measures to improve the rate of domestic demand-led growth and to ensure financial stability by addressing problems in the banking sys-

Mr. Sakakibara, for his part, told reporters earlier in the day after a meeting with IMF Director Michel Camdessus that currency issues would be discussed with Mr. Summers but that Japan's economy would be the central issue. Currency traders derided the notion

See JAPAN, Page 15

France

U.S. Producer Prices Fall Again

But Mounting Fears of Deflation Send a Chill Through Wall Street

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON — Producer prices in the United States were off for December and down for the year by the largest amount since 1986, rattling the stock market only days after a warning by Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, that the possibility of deflation deserved serious attention.

The unexpected fall in producer prices is likely to fuel a debate over the prospect that U.S. corporations may be entering a phase of broad declines in prices, and thus lower profit margins.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 99.65 points lower at 7,802.62 on Thursday and was pulled lower both by concern about the index and the con-tinuing Asian financial crisis. Analysts fear Asian corporations might unload their products on world markets, forcing U.S. manufacturers to slash prices.

The debate was fueled last weekend when Mr. Greenspan discussed deflation in depth during a speech to economists. The lower price index was a new signal that inflation is tame. But markets appear increasingly concerned that the

economy will go too far in the other

A Federal Reserve Board governor, Laurence Meyer, suggested Thursday that while he expected a small increase in inflation this year, the central bank might cut interest rates if the Asian crisis proves too serious a drag on the

The prospect of falling interest rates caused bonds to rally, with the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond dropping to 5.74. "Asia is just imploding," said Mary Ann Bartels, an asset manager at Avatar Associates in New York. That "bodes well for the bond

The producer price index was down 0.2 percent for December, the same as in November, and was off 1.2 percent for the year, the Labor Department an-nounced. It was the first time the index had declined in a calendar year since 1991, and the biggest drop since the 2.3 percent decline of 1986, when oil prices collapsed.

The index measures prices paid to producers such as factories and food-Mr. Meyer, the Fed governor, told a

group of economists in Washington that "a much larger spillover from the Asian crisis could encourage an easing" of interest rates. Mr. Greenspan's commeots over the weekend had already

stirred speculation of a rate cut. Economists said that this confluence of concerns, along with worries about European growth and a possible loss of consumer confidence, added to an expectation of slower global economic growth in 1998.

Analysts in New York said investors

had two concerns.
"One issue is what is going on with
Southeast Asia, especially in Indonesia, and whether we are going to have clo-sure to this Asian problem," said Arun Knmar, senior U.S. equities strategist at Lehman Brothers. Deflation, he said, is

Mr. Greenspan had cautioned over the weekend of the possible impact of deflation, a decline in the average level of prices and asset values. He said it was oot "a significant near-term risk" for the economy, but added that the Fed would remain on guard, adding that central bankers may have to act to counter the impact of declining prices.

Thinking Ahead /Commentary

In a French Airport, a Pointed Lesson

By Reginald Dale International Herald Tribune

ROAIX, France - At Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, visionary French transportation planning and large amounts of government cash have created what should be a brilliant marriage between the jumbo jet and the high-speed train. Putting most rival airports to shame, French engineers have constructed a state-of-the-art international railroad station inside the terminal, just steps from the aircraft.

There is one tiny snag. For travelers with more than a modicum of luggage the sbort transit from train to plane is a nightmare, — thanks to a systemic failure to provide porters or baggage carts at the station. As so often in France, the little cogwheel that should connect grand conceptual thinking to reality is missing.

reality is missing.
Helped by its technological prowess and its bountiful poblic purse, France has created one of the world's most advanced societies. Its widely envied quality of life is backed by a lavish welfare state. But the system fails to deliver what many French people want

most in practice — jobs.

On the contrary, it is becoming increasingly clear that the country has designed a magnificent social structure that places more emphasis oo palliating the consequences of unemployment than on reducing it. And the very confidence of the French in the superiority of their way of life, and their good taste, makes it harder for them to

accept new thinking and change.
At least in the 1990s, the champions of iob creation have been the pragmatic, privatized and less rigid Anglo-Saxon societies, notably the United States and Britain, which do not have high speed trains in their airports. To the Anglo-Saxon mind, the big

story in France this holiday season the demands by activists representing the unemployed for a Christmas bonus - has seemed almost a parody of where the country has gone wrong. However sympathetic the French

tutionalize and entrench long-term joblessness. Awarding the nnemployed the same kind of benefits and bonuses as salaried workers would further erode incentives for those without work to seek jobs. At least the Socialist government of

Lionel Jospin has resisted most of the activists' demands. But that has not stopped calls from intellectuals and militants for a sweeping political debate on the future relationship between work, or the lack of it, and remuneration. Such a debate, it is said, might ad-

dress such issnes as whether the minimum wage should also be paid to the unemployed or whether the state should pay some kind of "universal allocation" to everyone. It would also, of course, be completely disconnected from the real world.

As virtually any conversation in this small corner of Southeast France will may be to the plight of the unem- confirm, most French people want jobs,

arrive not handouts. The most frequent com-

ployed, it is obvious that acceptance of their demands would tend to insti-

plaints are that the unemployed are paid not too little but too much - and that it is virtually impossible for young people to get a fair start in business. Those with entrepreneurial expe-

rience bemoan France's failure to provide venture capital for small startup companies, a maio eogine of job creation in the United States.

Mr. Jospin, who has shown scant concern for business interests, should listen to these sensible messages. With little to show on the jobs front, and the unemployed on the warpath, be risks losing his credibility in the fight against joblessness, as did Alain

Joppe, his conservative predecessor.
One young entrepreceur visiting bere says he feels change is in the air. that France is becoming more venturesome and less set in its ways. He may well be right. Meanwhile, the people at Charles de Gaulle Airport could do their bit to end the job crisis

IG Metall Wins East German Pay Raise

Pact Averts Strike at Steel Mills, but Union Victory May Be Mostly Symbolic

By John Schmid

FRANKFURT - IG Metall, the big German union that has been losing members and influence for years, claimed victory Thursday when Eastern Germany's struggling steel mills reinctantly accepted the union's pay demands and narrowly averted a strike.

The unioo wants this "lovely success," in the words of the IG Metall chairman. Klaus Zwickel, to accompany a new toughness in its overall bargaining stance — a stance meant to combat what labor observers here see as a decline in the unioo's once-legendary role in the economy.

Emerging victorious in Eastern Germany was far more important to the union — at least symbolically — than the 2.6 percent pay increase for 8,000 workers that the steel industry agreed to Thursday, observers said. The union had rejected a mediation agreement to delay any increase until later in the year. The increase is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Most critical for the union was that the increase in eastern wages matches the 2.6 percent raise woo late last year by steelworkers in the west, thus preserving the union's nominal ability to set national wage terms, at least in the steel sector.

Eastern steel employers said a strike, A.M. P.M. Circe which would have begun Monday, n.a. 280.75 -1.65 282.90 281.65 +0.05 284.80 281.80 -2.90 threatened the existence of several of the eight companies in the region. Or-U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fisings: Zuricti and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (Feb.) ders from the booming German auto industry would have gone elsewhere,



Hasso Duevel, an IG Metall official, announcing the pact in Berlin.

Rallying under the motto "No More Modesty," IG Metall is leading a national campaign to ignore calls for wage restraint as a remedy for the nation's record unemployment and instead to fight for steep pay hikes in upcoming bargaining rounds.

But by waging their latest battle against an aiready weakened sector, and possibly even putting jobs at risk, the union drew more attention to its weaknesses than its strengths, the labor ob-

The strike threat coincided with a debate that has split the German labor movement - over the traditional role of unions to set wage benchmarks that are rigidly applied across the nation and disparate industries. The split increasingly runs along geographic lines, because East German entrepreneurs were the first to reject the western system of universal wages — long seen as an integral part of Western Germany's

See STEEL, Page 13

Surveillance Rouge

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Very briefly:

• Toys 'R' Us Inc. plans to buy back \$1 hillion, or 11 percent. of its own stock over four years, and said it had adopted a shareholder-rights plan that would help thwart a hostile takeover, although it said it did not think it had been targeted.

• Texaco Inc. plans to spend as much as \$500 million exploring coal-bed methane gas reserves in eastern China; the company also said it was in preliminary talks to jointly develop oil projects in Kazakhstan with China's National

 Amazon.com Inc. resumed service on its bookstore site on the Internet on Thursday morning after it shut down the site because of technical problems Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. The company offered a 10 percent discount to customers who visited the on-line store while it was down.

 Brazîl's inflation rate slowed in 1997 to the lowest annual pace in 47 years. Consumer price increases in greater Sao Paulo slowed to 4.86 percent in 1997, from 10.03 percent in 1996. Inflation has not been so low in Brazil since 1950, when inflation was 3.59 percent.

• Dow Jones & Co. named Paul Ingrassia, a Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist, president of its Dow Jones Newswires unit. Mr. Ingrassia, 47, had been executive editor of the news service since 1995 and chief operating officer since 1996. He replaces Carl Valenti, who is retiring.

Analysts Cut Chrysler Estimates

DETROTT --- Chrysler Corp.'s 1998 earnings estimates were lowered by as much as 10 percent on Thursday by some

analysts, who cited higher-than-expected incentives and costs related to the redesigned 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee. The automaker's chief executive, Robert Eaton, told analysts

at a meeting that 1998 incentives were likely to be unchanged from 1997's average of \$1,100 per vehicle. Chrysler stock was down \$2,3125, at \$32,6875 to late trading.

On Doubt Yen Will Get Help

Compiled by Our Staff From Disposities NEW YORK - The dollar rebounded against the yen Thursday Manhattan Corp. will slump. as concern faded that U.S. and Japanese officials were planning to join in selling the U.S. currency to curb

The dollar regained most of the three yeo it lost Wednesday as traders' focus shifted back to Japan's flagging economy and trou-

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

bled financial system. Tumbling currencies and stock markets across Asia also weighed on the yen.

"Pledges to cooperate on currency moves will be seen as halfhearted and unconvincing against the deepening financial market crisis," said Tim Fox, a treasury economist at Standard Chartered PLC in London, "With pressure on local Asian currencies intensifying. the yen gave up its gains."

At 4 P.M. the dollar was at 132.695 yen, up from 131.855 yen at the close Wednesday though down from the five-and-a-half-year high of 134.42 notched earlier in the day. But the dollar was lower against

most major European currencies as currency traders reacted to the de-cline in U.S. stocks. The dollar fell to 1.8215 Deutsche marks, from 1.8258 DM. The U.S. currency also dipped to 6.0925 French francs from 6.1040 francs a

day earlier, and to 1.4755 Swiss

francs from 1.4765 francs. But the pound stood at \$1.6125, compared with \$1.6258.

Dollar Rallies Stocks Slip on Fears About Overseas Profit

NEW YORK - Stocks fell

Thursday, dropping for a third day as further setbacks in Asian markets raised concern that overseas profit of banks such as Citicorp and Chase

"Corporate profits are in question, valuations are extreme and the economic background is shaky, particularly in Asia," said Henry G. Van der Eb, president of Mathers &. Co. in Bannockburn, Illinois, which oversees more than \$200 million. We're headed for the first down January in a while."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 7,802.62, down 99.65 points. Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones by a 9-to- analysts said. 5 ratio oo the New York Stock Exchange.

Broader market indicators also stock index closed at 956.04, down cent. Citicorp, Chase Manhattan;

down 6.15 points. Indonesian stocks traded in New

York declined following a drop of 12 percent in Indonesia's benchmark stock index to a four-year low.

U.S. STOCKS

The American depositary receipts of PT Indosat and PT Telkom were among the decliners.

Bank shares slumped. Tumbling currencies in Asia are expected to dent banks' trading profits, while slowing economies in the region increase the chances that businesses will not be able to pay back loans,

The Keefe, Bruyette & Woods Bank Index fell 12.00 in late trading to 718.06, the third straight day that fell. The Standard & Poor's 500- the index dropped more than I per-

go NBD all dropped.

Two of the three most-active stocks were Phycor and MedPartners, which fell after Phycor scuttled its planned \$8 billion purchase of MedParmers over differences on how to run the business of managing physicians' practices.

Also among the day's most active stocks was Seagate Technology. which fell after the company said it expected a 'substantial' loss from operations in its fiscal second quarter, citing a steep drop in prices for computer disk drives. It was Seagate's second warning in two

Auto shares fell after Chrysler issued a profit warning. General Motors and Ford were lower.

Talbots shares slid after the company warned it will have a steep fiscal fourth-quarter loss, instead of

7.96 points, and the Nasdaq composite index finished at 1,555.55. York, BankBoston and First Chicaton mark down its women's apparel

after poor year-end sales. "There's no sign of a bounce back" to come to U.S. stocks, said Michael Lyons, a trader at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter. Discover & Co. "The Asia markets are down, you've got Seagate coming in with lousy numbers. Nothing is pointing

"This is a tough environment to trade in," said Michael Driscoll, senior block trader at Hambrecht &

Ouist. Stocks failed to benefit from a drop in the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond to 5.74 percent from 5.79 percent.

Yields fell after the government said the producer price index declined a larger-than-forecast 0.2 percent in December, reinforcing expectations for scant inflation.

(Bloomherg, AP)

A Teen Mag From the House That Luce Built

By Robin Pogrebin

NEW YORK --- A oew magazine is scheduled to bit the newsstands Friday, and it is something of a significant departure for its publish-er, Time Inc. — that male bastion of testosterone titles like Time, Sports Illustrated, Money and Fortune.

Teen People, a monthly aimed at reenage girls, combines the standard teen fare of beauty, fashion and boys with the People magazine formula that has proved so successful: ar-(Bloomberg, AFP) ticles about celebrities and enter-

But it goes beyond the People approach into a type of service jour-nalism that has stealthily been infiltrating the Time Inc. stable to the point that it oow includes everything from In Style's celebrity living rooms to Cooking Light's high-calcium goat cheese quesadillas.

Given Time Inc.'s reputation as a male-dominated company that has spoken mostly to adult male readers, Teen People also exemplifies the latest and perhaps most extreme example of how the company is ag-

teenagers and minority groups.

Tve always felt that women and children are underserved," said Ann Moore, president of People, In Style, Teen People and People en Espanol. "Marketing to women, writing to women is not something we traditionally did at Time. We had a lot of men's books, a lot of news magazines, but we didn't have a division that understood women. I

think we have that expertise now."

tainment, leavened with a dose of gressively extending its reach to new audiences: women, children, road before. In 1994, the company unsuccessfully tested the teen magazine Mouth 2 Mouth, a venture that joined a graveyard already crowded with failed teen titles. More recently, Sassy folded and was merged into Teen by Petersen Publishing, which owned both.

Nevertheless, the market has grown stronger, and Teen People will jockey for newsstand attention with such heavyweights as Primedia's Seventeen (circulation 2.5 million), Teen People is entering a crowd- Gruner & Jahr's YM (2.1 million) ed, intensely competitive market and Petersen's Teen (1.7 million).

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Take Jair 18

Microsoft Now in the Dashboard

REDMOND, Washington - Microsoft Corp. has introduced an operating system for personal computers that can slide into a slot in a car dashboard or fit in the palm of a hand.

The Palm PC and Auto PC software will widen the family of products that run on Mircosoft's Windows CE 2.0 operating system, Craig Mundie, senior vice president for consumer platforms, said Wednesday night at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The software will be delivered to hardware companies - including Casio Computer Co., Philips Electronics NV and Clarion Co. - in the first quarter, he said.

Windows CE was introduced in October 1996, and Mr. Mundie said 500,000 hand-held PCs have been shipped with the system since then. Palm PC devices will compete with the market-leading PalmPilot, made by 3Com Corp.

The Auto PC is about the size of a car radio and combines the features of an electronic organizer, pager, radio, electronic navigator and compact-disk player. It uses speech recognition to allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel while using the device to listen to electronic mail or check traffic conditions.

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wolf Street.

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INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

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Business Opportunities

2 percent in 1998.

Prime Minister Viktor

Russia's Economy Turned a Corner in 1997

MOSCOW - Russia's economy returned to growth last year, officials confirmed Thursday, after Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told his cabinet it should work to meet official economic growth forecasts of

Russia's gross domestic product grew 0.4 percent in 1997, its first rise since 1989, when it was part of the May, the Soviet Union, the chief of the State ported. Statistics Committee's GDP department said Thursday, quoting preliminary figures. GDP is the broadest measure of a country's economic

Mr. Chemomyrdin told a cabinet

ment and central bank, news agencies

Mr. Chernomyrdin said interest May, the Interfax news agency re- its planned collection.

Treasury bills are yielding about 30 percent in ruble terms, almost double 1998," Interfax said. "By the end of last year's lows of near 17 percent.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he saw a strong year ahead and highlighted the for review to the State Duma." ecocomy's performance in Decem-Chernomyrdin of Russia. meeting that the Russian economy ber, which was 1.2 percent stronger analysts see a new tax code, to replace

and that the global market turmoil that cabinet it should work to achieve inspilled into Russia late last year had flation this year of 5 percent to 8 beeo deftly handled by the govern- percent as well as 2 percent growth, news agencies said.

But to keep fragile economic growth an track, the government will rates on Treasury bills, which soared have to do a better job of collecting to 45 percent late last year, should be taxes than in 1997, when by some back to pre-crisis levels by April or accounts it brought in just over half of

*Chernomyrdin noted that tax collection is the main job of the cabinet in January, he said, we should prepare a oew draft of the tax code and send it

Government reformers and market

expanded considerably in December than in December 1996. He told his Russia's makeshift tax laws, as a core finances

> Roland Nash, an economist at the Moscow investment bank MFK-Renaissance, said 2 percent growth was optimistic.

> 'Russia's recovery depends quite significantly on replacing old capital and investments, and investment is directly affected by interest rates, which have been affected by the financial situation over the last couple of months," Mr. Nash said.

First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov, in comments reported by Interfax oo Wednesday, also said the government should work to improve industrial compeddon.

Investor's Europe London Frankfurt FTSE 100 Index CAC 40 2900 2800 3500 A S O N D J Thursday Exchange Change Closs 925.39 832,07 -0.72 AEX Amsterdam 2,474.75 2,515.55 -1.62 Brussels BEL-20 4,347.23 4,391.54 -1.01 Frankfurt DAX Copenhagen Stock Markel 699.72 700,19 -0.07 3,463,25 -1.07 Helsinki HEX General 3,426,17 Oslo OBX 663.59 672.24 -1.29 **FTSE 100** 5.237.10 5,235.20 +0.04 London 658.17 -0.98 Madrid Stock Exchange 651.72 17869 -1.33MIBTEL 17631 2,954.94 3,012.40 -1.91 Paris CAC 40 3,250.53 3,270.94 -0.62 Stockhol SX 18 1,315.59 1,324.48 -0.67 Zurich

Rolls-Royce Fans to Make Patriotic Bid for Firm

LONDON - A group of Rolls-Royce and Beotley car enthusiasts prepared an aodacious takeover bid on Thursday in an effort to stop the most

The Rolls-Royce Action Groop, formed by a group of 10 wealthy car Royce.

"There is tremendous concern about the loss of

foreign hands," said Michael

Continued from Page 11

consensus-based economic model.

since spread into Western Germany,

said Thomas Mayer, an economist in Frankfurt for Goldman Sachs & Co.

Metall's scale, the union hopes to re-

assert cootrol over wage policy, said

Arbeitgeberverband Stahl steel employ-

the linchpin of unioo strength, econ-

The growing trend toward company-

With a victory in Eastern Germany,

The unioo clearly is fighting the

car company.

BMW's German rivals Volkswagen AG and Daimler-Benz AG are

bid in a last-ditch effort to thwart among our members about the loss of foreign buyers. The engineering a famous British company and loss of group Vickers PLC put the luxury national prestige," Mr. Shrimpton carmaker up for sale in October. said. "We are willing to talk to any We want to stop it falling into British bidder. If BMW goes ahead and wins - will there still be a Rolls

tough bidding race, with as many as

the group is writing to 20,000 owners f Rolls-Royce cars and its Bister model, Bentley, asking for help, as well as

calling on financial institutions. would be turned into a fans' cooperative. He said the group was com-mitted to investing heavily, already had a chief executive in mind and was

"It is a short-term victory," Joschim bate that rapidly has dovetailed into an

Fels, an economist at Morgan Stanley, emotional campaign issue before na-

place it at the top end of the bidding scale, analysts said. Most had pre-

dicted a top price of £600 million. Vickers said, "We have to get the best possible shareholder value but an element of it has to be finding the best

possible home for Rolls." Vickers bought Rolls-Royce in 1980, saving the group from bank-ruptcy and rebuilding it into a viable

Earlier on Thursday, Rolls-Royce announced it had sold 1,918 cars in

German Rates

FRANKFURT - The Bundesbank's policy-making council decided Thursday to hold the German discount and Lombard rates uo-

The German discount rate remains at 2,5 perceot and the Lombard emergency-financing rate at 4.5 percent. The central bank's repurchase rate was also held steady at 3.30 percent.

From France

Wine Exports

PARIS — Exports of French wines and spirits his record levels last year as the industry overcame a hangover in its Asian markets, the Federation of Wine and Spirit

Exporters said Thursday. Initial estimates pointed to the value of exports jumping 15 percent in 1997 to more than 40 billion francs (\$6.5 billion), with the weakness of the French franc buoying sales in Britain and the United

The federation said in a statement that if these figures are confirmed, the industry would be oo a par with the aviatioo sector in terms of its contribution to the French

trade surplus. 'The good geographical distribution of our exports meant that we only suffered slightly from the Asian mar ket crisis," said Philippe Pas-

cal, federadon chairman. The federation said Bordeaux wines and champagne led the export charge, with cognac lending a hand, It gave oo details of sales by volume and said full 1997 data would be released in March. The federation represents around 85 percent of the export sector.

SPI 3,934.81 3,973.47 -0.97 International Herald Tribus

group, which aims to prevent giants like Germany's Bayerische Motoren Werke AG from swallowing the last and most illustrious British-owned The acoon group is seeking to raise if it emerges as the winner. If the group is willing are pay up to £680 million, the group is willing are pay up to £680 million, the group is willing are pay up to £680 million, the group is seeking to raise. If the group is willing and able to Set a Record pay up to £680 million, this would

famous name in British motoring from falling into foreign hands.

Shrimpton, chairman of the action Royce?"

STEEL: IG Metall Wins a 2.6% Pay Increase in Eastern Germany

said of the settlement Thursday.

seven buyers in the running.

As part of the effort to raise finances,

Shrimpton denied the group considering a possible stock flutation 1997, up from 1,744 in 1996.

tional elections in September.

Showing solidarity with western un-

didate in the opposition Social Demo-

this month of the western-imposed con-

The debate has brought Mr. Henkel

into open conflict with members of Mr.

Kohl's government. Norbert Bluem, Mr.

Kohl's labor minister and a life-long

Unchanged

changed after its regular meeting, in line with market expectations.

Very briefly:

 Publicis SA, a French advertising group, acquired 75 percent of SMW, a Canadian advertising agency, from the agency's managers for an undisclosed sum.

· Adam Opel AG said it expected its workers' representative council and management to reach an agreement by the end of January on a pact to secure jobs. The carmaker said management and workers' representatives had drafted a plan on future locations of the carmaker's factories.

· Siemens AG's private-communications unit forecast that robust mobile-telephone sales would lead to sales and profit

 Otto Versand GmbH, the world's largest mail-order company, said it doubled its stake in the computer distributor Actebis Holding GmbH, to 97.5 percent, to expand its computer and telecommunications activities,

• The Czech Republic's unemployment rate rose to 5.2 percent in December, from 4.9 percent in November, and is expected to increase this year in what analysts said might be a sign of much-needed industrial restructuring.

· British Aerospace PLC said it might reduce its stake in Orange PLC to below 20 percent from 21 percent, after the Briosh mobile-telephone company refinanced its bank loans. · Ansaldo Energia SpA, an Italian energy-plant contractor unit of Ansaldo SpA, signed an accord with the Indian city of Mysore

to build a 1.7 trillion lire (\$947.7 million) power plant. • Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc. has reached an agreement with Sumilomo Pharmaceuticals Co, of Japan to regain Japanese sales and marketing rights for the human growth hormone product Geootropin, the company's most-sold product, Pharmacia said it would take a \$95 million pretax charge for payments to Sumilomo connected to the agreement,

 Commerzbank AG said it removed its global head of fixedincome operations, Juergeo Karcher, because of "managemeot differences." Reuters. Bloomberg

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Prices in focul currencies.

omists said.

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erosion of the wage cartel, an erosion and Western Germany have flared reions, Gerhard Schroeder, a leading canthat started in Eastern Germany and has peatedly this year over wage issues, sparking anger among western leaders cratic Party to challenge Chancellor that the east accepts the west's subsidies Helmut Kohl, offered a ringing defense but rejects its poliocal system. Labor-wing politicians in the west sensus system of wages. "We can reimpose this consensus after the next

Political tensions between Eastern

where more than half the metal-working this month called for the resignation of industries are estimated to pay below IG Hans-Olaf Henkel, the ontspoken leader election," he said. of the German Industry Federation who has cheered on the East German disvarious private economists and the regard for western-level wages. He and employers' associations argue that eastern companies cannot survive with west-

by-company wage autonomy threatens productivity levels. In a movement that has accelerated in international reputation and driven away recent weeks, Mr. Henkel opened a de- foreign investors.

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ern wages because of the east's lower

member of IG Metall, asserted that Mr. Henkel's tirades against the nation's

wage system has worsened Germany's

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The Trib Index Prints as of 3.00 PM. New York time World Index Regional Indexes Capital goods Consumer goods - 0.79 - 2.56 **—** 0.37 Energy Finance Miscellaneous The international Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more critimation, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 32521 Neurly Cedex, France.

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Going Bust Takes Time In Korea

Bankrupt Firms Get Up to 20 Years of Grace

SEOUL - Hanbo Steel & General Construction Co. has been languishing in South Korea's bankruptcy court for a year now, and still none of its creditors have been

Just as the company's collapse was a portent of the perils of years of reckless expansion, its bankruptcy experience shows bow hard it will be for the country to recover.

This year, about 500 Seoul-based companies have followed Hanbo into receivership. Companies mired in legal proceedings cannot restructure to help pull Korea out of an eco-nomic crisis that will all but wipe out growth this year.

"The process has got to be hastened," said Richard Samnelson, head of research at SBC Warburg in Seoul. "The excess workers and excess costs have to be

For that to happen, big changes are needed, analysts said. For instance, Seoul courts, which oversee almost all the nation's insolvency cases, have just four bankruptcy judges, and current rules allow companies up to 20 years to work out their bankruptcies.

"It's easy for companies to abuse the current system," said Kim Young Ha, a manager at Korea First Bank. He leads, the bank's team seeking repayment from another Hanbo Gronp affiliate.

Korea First itself may be shut down by the government — its non-performing loans amounted to 16.7 In August, Hanbo was told it had debts to until Oct. 15 to assemble its list of equity.



THEY JUST WON'T MOVE - A sales lot in Seoul filling up with used cars on Thursday as South Korea's economy remained in the doldrums, with unemployment reaching a four-year high.

percent of total loans at the end of creditors and the amount they were

Hanbo's bankruptcy exposed a loan-for-bribery scandal that implicated presidential aides and forced President Kim Young Sam to apologize. A Korea First Bank official accused of accepting bribes in exchange for approving loans to the month. Company committed suicide.
While the bribery scandal dis-

ipated, the bankruptcy process

The government failed three producers. The supervising judge appointed an executive from staterun Pohang Iron & Steel Co. to take the management reins.

Foreign investors, too, were stiffed in some of the big failures. eptember, the most of any Korean owed. In September, creditors Jinro Ltd., the country's biggest dis-tiller, for instance, defaulted on a sought to begin talks to sell some Hanbo assets, which they said were worth about 4 trillion won. it went bankrupt.

The October deadline for a creditors' list passed without results, and the company's lawyers oow say they will try to have it ready by next

To be sure, bankruptcies in any country are messy and contentious. In South Korea, though, the system's problems were magnified by the abrupt collapse of so many times to anction Hanbo to rival steel companies. More than 15,000 companies failed last year.

For instance, Halla Group, one of the country's biggest conglomerates, went bankrupt last month with In August, Hanbo was told it had debts totaling more than 20 times its

Until recently, lifetime employment was the norm here, and current law bars companies from firing unless they are financially strapped

> said Chul Jung Kim, a banking analyst at Ssangyong Securities & Investment Co. "Creditors could have liquidated but they never did."
> "Everyone recognizes the reality that actual restructuring is urgently needed," he added. "The change in

\$30 million convertible boud when

Under proposals the government is now considering, companies such

as Hanbo may have been shut down

the environment could make this be David Roche, chief strategist for Independent Strategy, a London in-

vestment advisory firm, put it more bluntly in a recent newspaper ed-

"Capitalism without bank-ruptcy," he wrote, "is like Chris-tianity without hell."

Home Prices Weaken in Hong Kong

HONG KONG - Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Hong Kong's largest property developer, sold new luxury bornes this week for almost half

what they fetched nine months ago. The price - about \$1,000 per square foot — seemed unthinkable last year, when Hong Kong bome prices, already three times those in New York, soared to record highs. Now, prices are down an average 20 percent since October and still

The discounts by Sun Hung Kai Properties show how hard the developer and Hong Kong's entire property market have been hit by the rising interest rates that accompan-ied Asia's financial turmoil.

"It just confirms the downward trend of the property market," said Stephanie Wang, an analysı at HSBC James Capel Asia Ltd.

Because seven out of 10 companies invest in or develop property here, Sun Hung Kai Properties is a barometer for corporate Hong Kong. The company accounts for almost 6 perceot of the benchmark Hang Seng Index, making it the largest developer by market value.

That Hong Kong's largest de-veloper would be willing to sell the new homes at these prices suggests that the property market is headed for more trouble, analysts said.

months ago. As part of the \$60 bil-lion bailoot agreement arranged by the International Monetary Fund Shares of property companies fell last month, the government said it would write new bankruptcy laws. Thursday oo concerns about the effect of rising interest rates on earnings. Wing Tai Holdings Ltd., a real Sbutting down companies wholesale would be a sea change for Korea estate developer, fell to an almost Inc. — and might trigger violent five-year low oo fears that the comprotests by Korea's labor unions. pany's earnings will be burt by higher interest rates in view of its already large debt load.

There is concern over interest rates and their exposure to Hong Kong," said Ng Ycow Toog, an analyst at G.K Goh Research Pte., a "There is no liquidation expe-rience in Korea for big companies," local brokerage.

The company recently bought land from the government at higherthan-expected market prices, analysts say. The purchases include sites on Draycott Drive and Newtoo Road sites in central Singapore. The company will have to pay more than 550 million Singapore dollars (about \$315 million) for the two sites, which could take its debt burden to between 60 percent to 80 percent of shareholders' equity, analysts estimate.

Other property stocks also fell, including City Developments Ltd. and DBS Land Ltd.

Investor's Asia Hong Kong Singapore Straits Times Tokyo Nikkel 225 Hang Seng 20000 1850 15000 13500 1700 12000 1550 1250 Prev. Thursday Exchange Change Close 9,254,53 9,538.61 -2.98 Hong Kong Hang Seng 1,368,06 1,270,70 Singapore Straits Time All Ordinaries 2,546,90 Sydney 15,019.18 15,028.17 -0.06 Nikkei 225 521.00 Kuala Lumpur Composite 507.16 370.31 -2.74 Bangkok 360.17 409.42 423.96 Composite Index Secut Stock Market Index 7,778.16 7,835.56 Taipei Manile 394.24 Composite Index Weilington NZSE-40 2,307.91 2,329.31 -0.92 3.598.16 3.683.31 -2.31 Bombay Sensitive Index

Very briefly:

• Nomura International PLC said it was willing to pay between 2 billion koruny (\$55.8 million) and 5.88 billion koruny for the Czech government's minority stake in Investioni a Postovni Banka AS, the CTK press agency reported.

· Yamaha Motor Co. said it would set up a wholly-owned subsidiary io Singapore as an operational center for the company's Asian business activities.

 Siogapore Telecommunications Ltd.'s shares rose 6 cents to 3.08 Singapore dollars (\$1.76) as some investors sought a perceived safe haven with stable earnings amid an expected economic slowdowo in Southeast Asian economies.

 NatSteel Broadway Ltd., the China-based manufacturer of electronics parts for consumer products, saw its Singaporetraded shares fall 15 ceots, or 20 percent, to 57 cents, amid concern over its exposure to South Korea's Samsung Group, which announced production cuts throughout Asia.

Clipsal Industries Ltd. of Singapore said it had formed a subsidiary, Clipsal Vietnam Company Ltd., to manufacture electrical-installation products.

 Atlus Co., the Japanese developer of amusement equipment, said it would lauoch an advanced versioo of its popular photo-sticker macbine in Japan and the United States

 Hoogkong Telecom said its wholly owned Hongkoog Telecom CSL subsidiary had completed an acquisition of the mobile-phone operator Pacific Link Communications Ltd. · Sharp Corp. denied a report that it had decided against producing only one product — active-matrix liquid crystal display screens of 12.1 inches (31 centimeters) and larger — at a new facility in Mie Prefecture in central Japan.

• The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. said it would raise its long-term prime rate 0.3 percentage point to 2.6 percent on Friday, from the current record low of 2.3 percent.

 Reserve Bank of India lifted a rule requiring Indian companies to seek its approval before they accepted foreign direct investment in some critical sectors such as infrastructure and other areas the government calls "priority sectors" for de-

Motorola Said to Double China Investment

BEIJING - Motorola Inc. plans to more than double its investment

in China by the year 2000, the Xinhua press agency said on Thursday. Motorola has put \$1.2 billion into a productioo center in Tianjin. It plans to build a second production center in Suzhou, in the coastal

province of Jiangsu, the agency quoted P.Y. Lai, the Motorola China

BANGKOK — Thailand's dwind-ling dream to be the "Detroit of Asia"

received a small lift Thursday as Toyota

Motor Corp. resumed production at its two anto plants near Bangkok after a

two-month stoppage because of slow

in business, they are operating at a snail's pace, as Thailand's first reces-

PEREGRINE:

Zurich's Prudence

pany should have known."

Continued from Page 11

a bridge loan" to Steady Safe "for \$100

million in the third quarter of 1997. I suppose that anyone following the com-

What is certain is that as Indonesia's

currency has plunged from about 3,600

rupiah to the dollar at the time of the

Zurich transaction to more than 9,400

on Thursday, Steady Safe's capacity to repay Peregrine has eroded. Hundreds

of companies in Indonesia and else-where in Asia have borrowed dollars

while their revenues are in local cur-

Several analysts, who asked not to be

named, recalled that Steady Safe had

originally borrowed money from

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.

with the stated intention of expanding

its bus fleet, Instead, it used the money

to build up a 14 percent share in Citra

Marga Nusaphala Persada, a toli road

company controlled by the eldest

daughter of President Suharto. Rumors

in the market said the two companies

Peregrine stepped in to offer the

bridge loan after Hongkong Bank called

its money back, on the grounds that the

funds had not been used for the stated

A spokesman for Hongkong Bank

purposes, Jakarta analysts said.

declined to comment.

might merge.

While Toyota's factory lines are back

total \$2.5 billion, he said. All investment would come di-

rectly from Motorola's profits in China, he said. Motorola will also of \$140 billion as factors underinvest \$280 million in Leshan, in Sichuan Province, to start an export- der and smooth market. oriented semiconductor industry, Mr. Lai said.

potential because of the lasting operation with China, Xinhua said,

sion in 30 years and disintegrating economies throughout Asia have souffed de-

General Motors Corp. and Ford Mo-

tor Co. have already scaled back their plans for Thailand, worried that slack

demand would leave production facil-

have sheet metal rusting in a rice

paddy," said Louis Hoghes, the GM

executive vice president who this week

said the company would slash 25 per-

cent from its original \$750 million budget to build a plant in Thailand by

GM also said the plant would run at less than half the initially forecast ca-pacity of 100,000 units a year and prob-ably shift from making a mid-size car to

Toyota's \$300 million Gateway City plant, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) south of Bangkok, will produce only

300 to 400 units this month, down by

about 90 percent from the last full as-

sembly month in 1997, a spokesman

said. The company's Samrong plant in suburban Bangkok is scheduled to make 2,000 units in January, 60 percent fewer than in October, the last full month of

GM and Ford announced their plans

for Thailand in 1996. Ford had planned

and try to export most of what it pro-

downturn in auto sales in the past four

months from the same period a year earlier, coupled with regional economic

strife that has choked sales elsewhere.

currency devaluation in July which re-

sulted in an emergency loan from the

International Monetary Fund in August. Several tax increases required by the IMF

made cars even more expensive for con-

sumers who suddenly had less to spend.

In Thailand, car sales were bit by a

The cutbacks reflect a 70 percent

a smaller car.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to

Toyota Resumes Its Production

Of Cars at 2 Plants in Thailand

torola's investment in China would mitment to a stable currency.

He cited China's stable political

simation, high economic growth rate and foreign exchange reserves scoring China's sound financial or-

Motorola will launch its North Asia business center in Beijing this Motorola is confident of China's year and enhance technological copresident, as saying. By 2000, Mo- boom and the government's com- without giving further details.

Drop in Tourism kor Australia?

GOLD COAST, Australia

The Asian economic crisis could cause a 9 percent drop in visitors to Australia this year and cost the na-tion about 1.5 billion Australian dollars (\$957 million), a tourism

analyst said Thursday.

Alan Midwood, director of the quarterly Queensland Development Report, said he believed about 380,000 fewer people — including 240,000 tourists — would visit Australia this year.

He said the drop in visitors from most of Asia this year was likely to be in the range of 33 percent. "Bot this will be counteracted to some extent from Europe and 8 percent from America and possibly 100 percent from China," he said.

Also Thursday, the government released retail spending figures suggesting that the strong domestic

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Tarrin said the Group of Seven nations should coordinate efforts to lift the strength of the yen, help persuade Asia's creditors not to call back their money and work to promote trade and

investment in the region.

The Group of Seven's involvement need not include extra money to support the region's economies, Mr. Tarrin said. "It's a matter of showing leadership in terms of getting together to solve this problem systematically. Just that part alone is sufficient."

"At this point the officials are just ont there shooting off a lot of blanks," a currency trader said. "They need to get someone in here with real bullets, like the World Bank, the United States or

As Indonesia led the downward plunge Thursday, amid political tensions over the future role of President Suharto, Mr. Tarrin warned that future instability could come from "various other countries as well." Hours after Mr. Tarrin spoke, Standard and Poor's Corp. downgraded Thailand's loog-term debt

Stock markets throughout the regioo

tumbled Thursday, with Hong Kong's falling almost 3 percent, Singapore's 7.5 percent, Manila's 5.24 perceot and

ASIA: Thailand Appeals for Help From G-7 as Crisis Deepens

Malaysia's 2.2 percent.

Hong Kong stocks fell for a sixth consecutive day amid growing fears that the colony was losing its status as a relatively safe place for investors in Asia's currency storm. Share prices have fallen 8.69 percent in two days. Weakening currencies across Asia also cast donbt over the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the U.S. dollar. Hong Kong's interest rates were pushed up for a second consecutive day to defend that link.

And in Taipei, Taiwan's central bank

was again forced to intervene Thursday to prop op the local currency.

In trading in New York, the dollar was quoted at 9,400 rupiah, up from 8,375 on Wednesday. The dollar was also quoted at 52.65 Thai baht, down from 53.15 baht; at 1.785 Singapore dollars, up from 1.7415 dollars; at 4.705 Malaysian ripagit up from 4.55 ripagit. Malaysian ringgit, up from 4.55 ringgit; at 34.33 Taiwan dollars, down from 34.41 dollars; and at 7.7458 Hong Koog dollars, up from 7.7365 dollars.

Asia's one bright spot was South

Korea, the country that led the region's economic decline for the past few

weeks. The won fell only moderately and recently introduced foreign ownership laws drove buyers to lift the stock index by 3.6 perceot, making Scoul the best-performing stock market in Asia this year. The dollar rose to 1,785 won from 1,741 won. For most of the region's currencies.

trading volume has all but evaporated. An average of about \$15 billioo worth of each local currency was traded daily np to one year ago, while less the \$2 billion changes hands each day now,

a trader said. Speculators and investors have deserted the market, leaving only local companies desperate to pay back dollar

debts and officials who attempt to slow the slide their currencies. With their credibility under attack and no currency reserves to back up their measures, the region's govern-

ments will not be able to restore confidence without outside help, traders and economists said 'I don't think any one country here is

io a positioo to change the force of market sentiment," said Eric Nicker-son, managing director of curreocy research at Bank of America. "At best, all that the individual governments can do is change little things."
The danger, Mr. Nickerson said, was that officials might be driven to take

desperate measures hindering the exchange of currency, which could hurt firms with legitimate need for dollars.

Thailand recently slashed the length

of time exporters could hold foreigncurrency earnings and plans to announced a set of measures to discourage speculation on Friday.

The Philippines' central bank govemor, Gabriel Singson, has vowed to take

'drastic measures' to support the peso. The Philippines has already accelerated the creation of an onshore trading market for forward currency contracts. With local banks now legally taking part in the hedging of currency risk, Mr. Singson said he hoped the new facility would take the "panic out of the market."

Malaysian Plan for Imports

As the ringgit fell against the dollar, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday that Malaysia planned to work out agreements with some countries to pay them for imports in currencies other than dollars, The Associated Press reported from Kuala Lumpur.

"Under new contracts we hope that imports from the ASEAN countries, China, Pakistan and India could be made using their respective currencies," Mr. Anwar said. The Association of South East Asian

Nations includes Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia. Mr. Anwar said imports denominated in U.S. dollars had become more ex-

pensive following the depreciation of the ringgit against the dollar.

"The problem is compounded by the fact that not only imports from the United States and Europe are denominated in U.S. dollars, but also those from other countries," he said.

e conomy would battle the negative impact of the Asian crisis this to one notch above junk-bond status. (AP. Reuters)

IAPAN: No Immediate Intervention Planned to Prop Up the Yen

Continued from Page 11

that joint dollar-selling by the world's monetary anthorities would be effective

to make pickup trucks and sell the majority of its 135,000-unit capacity in Thailand. for more than a short time because, they said, Tokyo hasn't taken convincing Its latest strategy is to build 50,000 units a year for the foreseeable future enough steps to stimulate its economy or deal with its shaky banks. "The threats of concerted interven-

tion aren't really that credible," said Wayne Grigull, managing director at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in New York. 'The simation in Japan is such that yon're facing a fairly high prob-ability of a protracted and continued downturn in the economy. Intervention is oot going to be sufficient to turn around the situation unless you have very material policy changes.

David Gilmore, a partner at Foreign Exchange Analytics in Essex, Connecticut, who shared the widespread view that the dollar-yen rate was headed to 140 yen per dollar early this year, said:
"It's going to be a while before the yen really bottoms ont. It's going to take some fairly extraordinary measures from Japan to convince the U.S. Treasury that selling dollars is going to be effective."

A strong dollar helps case Asia's crisis in one respect — it improves the from abroad in recent years.

nancial markets. Mr. Sakakibara, a sharp-tongued economist, is known to investors around the world as "Mr.

Officially, he occupies the oumber three position in the Japanese finance ministry. But Mr. Sakakibara, who earned his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan, is generally regarded as a main architect of Japan's strategy for coping with its recent financial troubles. That strategy has sought to preserve

the overall stability of Japan's financial system by preserving basic features many Western analysts contend are the underlying source of Japan's current economic weakness. Among them: lax accounting rules for banks, extensive government protections that shield all but the most improvident financial institutions from the full consequences of reckless lending decisions and broad discretionary authority in matters large and small for elite bureaucrats at the Ministry of Finance.

The dribble of official and unofficial reports from Tokyo in recent weeks has led many investors to conclude that, if anything, Mr. Sakakibara and his colleagues are intent on strengthening the old system rather than dismantling it in favor of more market-oriented institu-

Koji Omi, head of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, said in a speech in the Council on Foreign Relations that the Japanese government would triple to 30 trillion yen (\$224 billion) the amount of public funds available to stabilize the nation's financial system.

But foreign investors have expressed concern that a substantial portion of that

amount would be used to allow the government to prop up floundering banks through the purchase of preferred shares. The Japanese stabilization plan appears to be modeled oo the Recoostruction Finance Corporation used by the U.S. government in the 1930s to stave off a collapse of the nation's financial system. Many Western analysts, however, ar-

gue that Japan would be better off copying a different U.S. bank rescue entity, the Resolution Trust Corporation, which helped clean up the wreckage of the U.S. savings and loan crisis in the 1980s. Rather than seek to bolster all lenders, the Resolution Trust Corporation sought to salvage relatively healthy banks by forcing the closure of their weaker brethren, then expediting the sale of failed thrifts' remaining assets.

■ Korea Looking for a Rollover

The governor of South Korea's central bank said Thursday that his country was looking for a rollover rather than conversion of the country's huge debts, Reuters reported from Paris.

Lee Kyung Shick, speaking after talks with French commercial-bank representatives and the chief of the French central bank, Jean-Claude Trichet, said Mr. Trichet had said he would do his best to help out in discussions on Seoul's debts, as deadlines on shortterm debt loomed.

Mr. Lee met Mr. Trichet after talks with the French commercial bank Socicte Generale, which has been named to represent all French banks with loan exposure to the country. "I asked for his cooperation he answered to me he would do his best," Mr. Lee said.

Car Imports Slump in Japan Total imports in 1997 fell to 364.882

TOKYO - Hurt by an increase in the national consumption tax, sales of imported cars, trucks and buses in Japan plunged nearly 15 percent in 1997, the first decrease in five years, auto im-

Ford Motor Co., Volvo AB and Renault were among the biggest

The association forecast that sales of imported cars would not rise in 1998 from last year's levels, another indication that Japan's economic problems would continue to weigh on other coununits, compared with 427,525 in 1996 _ a drop of 14.7 percent, the Japan Automobile Importers Association

A spokesman for the association said imports were hurt by the increase in April 1997 of the national consumption tax to 5 percent from 3 percent and the elimination of a special income-tax re-

The import figures come as slow domestic consumption and increasing exports are fueling Japan's 1.06 trillion yen (\$7.91 billion) trade surplus. . (AP, Bloomherg)

competitiveness of exports made in Japan and other Asian countries. But it dramatically worsens the plight of companies in many Asian economies that now must generate much larger profits in their own currencies to pay off the billions of dollars they borrowed

Mr. Sakakibara's bigh profile had much to do with the wide attention the Washingtoo meetings generated in fiPAGE 16 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998 **NASDAO** Hafty That Zinco Thursday's 4 P.M. 看这种的有效的政策和专家的对于我们也是否有的现在分词,可以不是不是不是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是一个,我们也是一个,我们也会会会会会会会会会会会会会会会会会会 The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year. ARTH BITTHE ANTICE AND SECOND ASSESS OF THE SECOND ASSESS ASSESSED AND ASSESSED D ASSESSED D ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSEDADAS ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSEDADAS ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSEDADAS ASSESSEDADAS ASSESSEDADA DAY AND DE 1860 High 1961年在1961年1961日1961年中的大学的一种的特殊的一种的特殊的一种的特殊的一种的特殊的一种的特殊的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的一种的 经经验表现的。 1915年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,1918年,19 ,在我是是中国的政治的。 1915年第四日,可以为政治的政治的,但是他的政治的政治的政治的政治的政治的政治的,可以对政治的政治的政治的,可以对政治的政治的政治的,可以对政治的政治的政治的政治,可以对政治的政治的政治,可以对政治的政治的政治,可以对政治,可以对政治的政治,可以 AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER 13) 28 病病病费士氏病是克姆因产生或者类氏病疾患者更多有可含素类产者的。有关T のかの近代を利用を表現のませんが、 のかの近代を利用を表現のませんが、 ののののでは、 のののでは、 のののでは、 のののでは、 ののでは、 のでは、 ののでは、 のでは、 ので Amenda Andrew An AND THE STATE OF T 李子子子子子子 Sowment Sowiece S Specialist Spec 場合の日本のは日本の 中でなっる大き · 高级等级

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Texas Rangers Sold

BASEBALL Tom Hicks agreed to buy the Texas Rangers from a group headed by Governor George Bush of Texas for \$250 million.

Hicks also owns the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League. If the deal is approved by owners, the price would be the second-highest for a basebail team. Fox Sports is awaiting approval oo its purchase of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a deal worth about \$350 million. (AP)

Court Jails Bomb Carrier

OLYMPICS A Stockholm court sentenced Mats Hinze on Thursday to seven years in prison for arsoo and attempted bombings that may

have been protests against Stock-holm's hid for the 2004 Olympics. Hinze, 26, was arrested in September in Stockholm carrying a bomb toward a statue used as the symbol of the Olympic bid. The arrest came on the oight before the International Olympic Committee voted to hold the games in Athens.

Hinze said he had not planned to detonate the bomb but had wanted to embarrass the police as revenge for alleged harassment. (AP) for alleged harassment.

Lattek Turns Down Iran

SOCCER Udo Lattek, former coach of Barcelooa and Bayern Munich, turned down Thursday an offer to coach Iran in the World Cup finals, "It's oot a decision against Iran but ooe for my family." Lattek said. (Reuters)

Eagleson Is Jailed

HOCKEY Alan Eagleson, the former head of the NHL players union head was jailed Wednesday after pleading guilty of fraud. On Tuesday, in Boston, Eagleson pleaded guilty to mail fraud and was fined \$700,000. The Hockey Hall of Fame will vote March 31 on expelling bim.

Linebacker on His Feet

FOOTBALL Reggie Brown, the Detroit linebacker, who was taken from the Silverdome in an ambulance Dec. 21, is back on his feet. Brown, 23, is unlikely to play again. He will undergo rehabili-tation in Houston, near his home.

Brown dislocated two neck vertebrae and bruised his spinal cord. He was unable to breathe and was resuscitated by a doctor.

WORLD ROUNDUP Chinese Swimmers Suspected of Doping

Vials Labeled as Hormones Found With Team

PERTH, Australia - Customs officers at Sydney Airport found vials thought to contain growth hormones in a Chinese swimmer's travel bag oo

Customs officials said the suspected hormones, banned by the governing authority of world swimming, FINA, were foned during a search at Sydney Airport where 29 members of the Chinese national swimming team made a stop en route to the world championships in

A spokesman for the customs service in Sydney said that thirteen vials of liquid, packed in ice, were found in a bag belonging to a female team member. She was later identified as Yuan Yuan, a 1994 world silver medalist

The spokesman said the vials had oot been declared and were clearly labeled in English as "human somatropin," a growth hormone that can be used as a substitute for muscle-building anabolic

"A team coach has said that he packed the bag," said John Hawks-worth, regional director of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Customs Service.

The team members were released after some were questioned, and they later caught their scheduled flight for Perth. But the incident threw the world of competitive swimming into turmoil.

Seven members of the Chinese team tested positive for steroids before the 1994 Asian Games in Japan, two months after they won 12 out of 16 events at the world championships in Rome.

FINA officials in Perth have said they can take no action against the Chinese without actual proof of drug-taking.

Other members of the Chinese swimming team, training at a pool in soburban Perth when they received oews of the incident, appeared incredulous. Returning to the team botel nearby, they hid their faces from photographers and walked in without comment.

The Chinese team's leader, Shi Tianshu, declared that his athletes were 'clean" when he arrived in Perth earlier this week. He also caotioned the Australian team's head coach, Don Talbot, to 'get the facts' before pointing a finger at China following Talbot's publicly expressed doubts about the Chinese team's abstinence from performance enhancers.

Although the hormones are banned by FINA, there is oo test to detect them. The vials were found during a routine search of luggage after a customs officer became suspicious of a person traveling with the team who matched the profile

of a narcotics suspect.
Customs officials said it was unlikely that any team meinbers woold be prosecuted even if lab tests proved the substance to be growth hormones, because of the small amount found.

"This time they've been caught with their hands in the cookie jar," Talbot said, adding that he was glad. "It makes a lie of the people who have been defending them."

Deryk Snelling, a British swimming official, said FINA should consider banning China from the world champiooships, which began in Perth oo Wednesday and end on Jan. 18.

"It'll penalize a lot of innocent people, but it's the only way they'll get the message," Soelling said. "It seemed to us that they had learned their lessoo after what happened in 1994, but obviously they haven't. I must admit I'm premy shocked but it has reinforced he suspicions."

The veteran Australian swimming coach, Forbes Carlile, said FINA's lenient approach had contributed to the Chinese problem. He said FINA had wasted time attacking Winfried Leo-pold, head coach of the German team, for admitting past doping activity in-

stead of targeting the Chinese. Leopold regained his accreditation for the championships on Thursday after a judge in the Western Australian Sopreme Court decided a case could be made that FINA had denied him justice when it withdrew his accreditation. FINA had withdrawn Leopold's accreditation after he said to reporters on arrival that he had been involved in doping as a

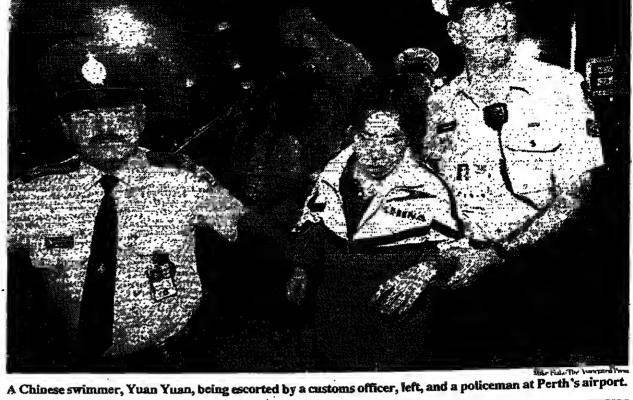
coach in East Germany in the 1980s.
"They're so damn elumsy, trying to
grandstand," Carlile said of FINA. "Instead of trying to repunish an East German, they should have been going after the Chinese." (AFP, Reuters)

Russian Wins a Gold in Diving

Meanwhile, in the pool on Thursday, Yolia Pakhalina of Russia capped 15 years of training with a gold medal in the women's 3-meter springboard diving event, The Associated Press reported from Perth.

Pakhalina, 20, has been coached by her father since she was 5 years old. She finished her final set of dives with a score of 544.62 points, well clear of Jinj Jing Guo of China, who had 518.76.

Chantelle Michell of Australia moved up from 10th place after the semifinals to take the bronze.



More Q's Than A's as Golfers Tee Off

By Clifton Brown New York Times Service

CARLSBAD, .California - When David Duval and Gabriel Hjernstedt stepped to the first tee Thursday at the Mercedes Championships, the short golf winter break ended and one of the most anticipated seasons in PGA Tour

history began.
Will Tiger Woods remain the tour's
dominant player? Can either Phil Mickelsoo or Colin Montgomerie finally win a major? Can John Daly return as a force in the game? Will the majors continue to be dominated by younger players? Or can over-40 veterans like Greg Norman, Nick Faldo and Nick Price still play their best when it matters most?

The answers will unfold throughout the year, but this week, the competitioo and the pressure begin. The tour has oever been deeper, the prize money has never been bigger, and winning consistently has never been harder.

Ask Ernie Els, the defending U.S. Open champioo and one of the world's top players. He admits he enjoys lifting a beer more than lifting weights. But this off-season, Els made the decision to start working out regularly. He is looking for any edge he can get.

To accomplish what I want to accomplish, I felt it was something I occd to do," Els said. Some of golf's most recognizable

subpar seasons: Fred Couples, Corey Pavin, Payne Stewart, Craig Stadler. Tom Lehman and Daly all were without victory on the tour last year.

None of those players qualified for this week's 30-man field at La Costa Resort and Spa, reserved for 1997 tournament winners. For the 30 players competing this week, the Mercedes event represents an opportunity to make an early statement with a victory.

This week's two higgest plots involve Woods and Duval. Woods, the defending Mercedes champion, wants to set the tone for another phenomenal year by opening with a victory. Daval, who dominated the last month of 1997 with three victories, hopes to become the first golfer to win four consecutive PGA our starts since Ben Hogan in 1953.

Woods won last year's rain-shortened 1-hole Mercedes tournament, defeating Lehman on the first hole of a suddendeath playoff. It served as a springboard for the first six months of the season, when Woods won four tournaments, including the Masters.

But Woods hasn't won since July, and Love and Duval were far more consistent during the second half of 1997. Many expect Woods to dominate the Masters for years to come, because of his length off the tee. But in other majors Woods has never finished higher than 19th. Meanwhile, last year's other major

names are hoping to bounce back from winners, Els (U.S. Opeo), Justin Leonard (British Opeo), and Love (PGA Championship) believe their best golf is still ahead. Els and Leonard are still in their 20s, and Love is only 33.

"I'd love to win the money title, the scoring title, and all four majors at least once," Love said. "I'm striving for consistency. That keeps you motivat-

■ Last Round in Florida

An 85-year-old former professional golfer shot the manager of a public golf course twice in the chest Wednesday, then killed himself in the pro shop. The Associated Press reported from Mount Dora, Florida.

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Emie Tardiff was angry at being reprimanded by the management for driving his golf cart on the greens and disrupting others' games by moving to tees before they were done, police said. The board of directors of the Mount

Dora Golf Association had written Tardiff several letters and threatened to suspend him from the course. Police said Tardiff walked into the

pro shop Wednesdaywith one of the letters in his pocket and shotDouglas Passen, 58, who staggered out and collapsed near a group of men teeing off.
Tardiff walked back into the shop to call police, then turned the gun on himself. Passen was listed in stable condition after surgery in an Orlando hospital.

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Slovaks Gain Tennis Final **After Beating Australians**

Karol Kocera and Karina Habsudova

of Slovakia ignored a fiercely partisan crowd Thursday to upset Pat Rafter and Annabel Ellwood of Australia and earn a place in the final of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament in Perth.

The Slovak pair needed just over an hour to take the deciding mixed doohles rubber, 7-5, 6-2, for a 2-1 victory. Earlier, Habsudova had come from 0-3 down in the first set to beat Ellwood, 6-3, 6-3. Rafter took 2 hours 25 minutes

to beat Kocera, 7-6, 3-6, 7-3. Slovakia will oow meet either France or South Africa, who face off oo Friday to settle the other place in the final

The French duo Mary Pierce and Cedric Pioline beat the United States. the defending champion, 3-0.
Pierce took 52 minutes to beat Chandra Rubin, 6-0, 6-3, and Pioline oever appeared extended as he beat

doubles, 6-4, 7-6. ten, the French Opeo champion, Thursday at the Aostralian men's hard-

Jonathan Stark, 6-46-3. The French pair won the mixed

• Brett Steven upset Gustavo kuer-

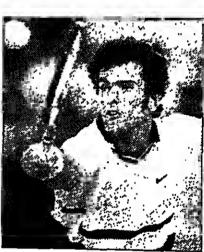
ten, 6-3, 6-3. Kuerten, seeded second, became the seventh out of eight seeded players to be dumped from the evect before the quarterfinals.

court championships in Adelaide. Steven, a New Zealander, beat Kuer-

Steven will play Andre Agassi, who beat Ian Siemerink of the Netherlands, 6-4. 6-3. · Magnus Norman, seeded No. 4, retired from his second-round match

against French qualifier Jerome Golmard after twisting his left ankle in the first game of the third set. Norman won the first set, 6-1, but lost the second, 6-2. Todd Woodbridge, seeded No. 5. won a three-set encounter with German qualifier Jens Knippschild, 6-7 (8-10).

• Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, the No. 1 seed, joined the list of seeded casualties at the Australian women's hardcourt championship in Gold Coast when shoulder strain forced her to qoit her quarterfinal match against Venezuela's Maria Vento. Schultz-McCarthy, from the Netherlands, trailed, 4-0, in the opening set when she pulled out. She said that because of gusting winds on Thursday, she had to adjust her serve,



Cedric Pioline winning for France.

putting extra strain oo her shoulder. Ruxandra Dragomir, the No. 2 seed, also complained about the wind after she lost to Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan, 6-

3. 5-7, 6-3.

• Monica Seles is skipping the Austhern tralian Opeo, a tournameot where she has never lost, for "personal reasons." Her father, Karolj, who is her coach, is suffering from stomach cancer.

Seles has played the Australian Open four times, winning each time. Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, twice a finalist at Melbourne, withdrew because of a wrist iojury.

(AP, Reuters, AFP)

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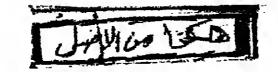
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Golfers Tee Off

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SPORTS

Heat Scald Bulls In 99-72 Victory

Chicago Bulls to their most lopsided loss in nearly two years, but the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson, was oot around to see most of it.

Jacksoo was ejected in the

NBA ROUNDUP

first half for protesting a technical foul oo Dennis Rodman. as the Bulls lost, 99-72, Wednesday in Miami "We've got the rings. They ain't got no rings." Rodman said. "They beat us. It's one

of 82. It's oot a big deal." Spurs 96, Nuggets 89 Denver set a team record with its 15th straight loss. The Nuggets dropped to 0-18 oo the

Wizards 110, Celtics 108 Antoine Walker scored 49 points, the most hy a Boston player since Larry Bird hit 49 and two key assists in the on March 15, 1992. But, the fourth quarter, as Phoenix

Celtics lost in Washington. The Wizards led, 110-107, with 10 seconds left when Juwan Howard called a timeout, but Washington had none left. The referee called the technical foul, and Dana Barros made the shot for Boston, then missed a 3-pointer as

time expired. Five years ago in the NCAA championship game, Chris Webber, now a Wizard, and Howard played for Michigan. In that game, Howard called a time-out but Michigan had none left. This time, Webber gave Howard a hig grin.

The Associated Press straight home game to give The Miami Heat sent the coach Bill Fitch his 936th victory, making him third on the National Basketball Association's coaching list.

Lakers 114, Bucks 102 Shaquille O'Neal, playing his fourth game since being sidelined for more than six weeks because of an injury, scored a season-high 38 points as Los Angeles won at home.

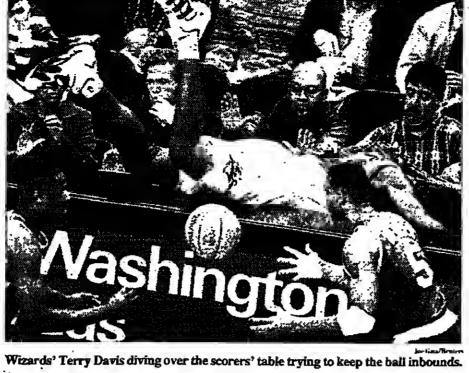
Knicks 89, Nets 88 Sam Cassell scored a career-high 34 points, but missed a shot. and was injured on a controversial final play in overtime, as New York held off New Jersey in Madison Square Garden. Cassell appeared to be fouled by Ailan Houston as he took a shot in the last second. Houston jumped up and landed on Cassell's shoulder, but there was no call.

Steve Nash had nine points fourth quarter, as Phoenix woo in Minnesota.

Magic 83, Raptors 81 Ver-non Maxwell scored 18 points 34 shots as the Ottawa Senas Orlando stopped a four-game losing streak. Maxwell, signed to a 10-day contract Mooday, played for 21 minutes in his first extensive NBA action since last April.

Hornets 91, Trail Blazers 89 David Wesley swatted away Kenny Anderson's shot, then banked in a jumper with 2.2 seconds left to lift Charlotte to victory at Portland.

Hawks 106, Warriors 86 Steve Smith scored 35 points Clippers 110, Grizzlies 102 ded 19 as Atlanta ended a giving Bostoo a victory at the Clippers won their fourth seven-game losing streak. Montreal. The Clippers won their fourth seven-game losing streak.



Senators Shut Out the Stars, 2-0

The Associated Press

Damian Rhodes stopped ators shut out the Stars in Dal-

The Senators won, 2-0, on Wednesday night, despite being outshor 34-17.

Dallas, the top team in the National Hockey League, had been unbeaten in its last 10

Chris Murray and Magnus Arvedson scored for the Sen-

Heinze scored with just under

In Tampa, Felix Porvin's home. Former Oiler Ray strong goaltending and three straight secood-period goals

lifted Toronto to victory.
Potvin stopped 34 shots, including 17 during the second period when he made a

NHL ROUNDUP

Ciccarelli's wraparound at-

Weight scored with 1:43 left and Dikembe Mutombo ad- two minutes left in overtime, in the third period as Edmonton snapped an eightgame winless streak and a

five-game losing streak at Whitney scored both Florida goals. Blues 3, Canucks 2 In Van-

couver. Chris Pronger broke a tie with 7:38 left in the third as St. Louis won its third straight

Sabres 3, Mighty Ducks 2 Curtis Brown and Alexei sliding stick save on Jamie Zhitnik scored goals in a 41-Huscroft and repelled Dino second span of the third period as Buffalo rallied to win in Anaheim.

Devils 3, Penguins 1 Martin Brodeur gained his NHL-leading 25th victory as New Jersey beat Pittsburgh, one of the league's top road teams.

It's the Battle of the Backs Broncos vs. Steelers Will Be Won on Ground

By Gerald Eskenazi New York Times Service

erome Bettis, the Pittsburgh Steelers' usually cheerful running back, is annoyed with the Denver Broncos' Terrell Davis, his chief rival for the title of the American Football Conference's No. 1 running back. The two men will clash Sunday in Pitt-

sburgh for the conference championship, with the winning team facing the 49ers or the Packers in the Super Bowl.

Bettis has all the respect in the world for Davis, whose running style is that of a jitterbug. while Bettis's approach is personified by his nickname, the Bus, bestowed on him by Notre Dame students during his college career.

Bettis looked at a newspaper photo posted in the locker room and was not arrused. The picture showed a stack of shirts emblazoned with Davis, who has the Super Bowl XXXII logo behind him. Davis is saying, "Salute this!" The salute is Davis's way of acknowl-

edging the Denver fans when he scores.

"When they have T-shirts they're already making, that's a hlatant lack of respect," Bettis said. "So when you see that type of thing you just catalog that in the back of your head and say, O.K., we'll see if you guys get a chance to wear those shirts or you have 10 burn them."

Benis also doesn't like the salute, saying. It works for them, but it kind of backfires

every time they lose a game because people find a way to throw it back in their faces. There is one thing that the running hacks

agree on.
"I think primarily it will be a running game," Davis said. 'I think we have to run the football," Benis

said. "That's first and foremost. If we can't run the football, we won't do it. We've had to run the football for the last 17 weeks." The Steelers are only the seventh team since

the 1970 merger of the two leagues to lead the conference in rushing offense and rushing defense. The Steelers' defense and Bettis won the last battle of the running backs on Dec. 7, when they faced the Brnncos. Bettis churoed out 125 yards, while Davis was held to one of Sunday's game. They have attended almost his lower totals of the season, 75 yards. Pitt- every one of his games since high school.

sburgh won. Overall, though, Davis led the conference with his 1,750 yards, second in the National Football League to the Detroit Lions'

Barry Sanders. Bettis was third at 1,665. Bettis remains one of the great Steelers steals. He was the Rams' first-round draft pick in 1993, but soon clashed with management.

After his third season with the Rams, he saw Lou Holtz, his former coach at Notre Dame. "Some impostor was wearing your uoiform last year." Holtz said. Bettis had been slowed by an ankle injury and failed to gain 1,000 yards for the first time. Then on draft day in 1996, the Rams picked Lawrence Phillips. The Steelers wheedled a deal out of the Rams, giving second- and fourth-round choices in exchange for Bertis and a thirdrounder. In his first season with the Steelers, Bettis amassed 1,431 yards. Now, for a second straight season, the Steelers have

voted him the team's most valuable player. At 5 feet 11 inches and 250 pounds, he seems to be the perfect complement to Kordell Stewart, whose ability to run and throw is rarely seen in NFL quarterbacks.

When Stewart was elevated to the starter's role, Bettis made sure that they got to know each other. They roomed together the week the team was in Ireland for an exhibition game. Bettis told the young quarterback he thought they could make it to the Super Bowl.

Having Kordell as quarterback has added a new dimension," Bettis said. "They have to stop him as a runner and as a passer.

ettis talks about consistency as his hallmark. He even sees a connection with his other favorite sport, bowling. He has a 200 average. "The pacing and self-discipline — you have to be consistent in throwing the ball the same way, "he said. "To be a great running back, you have to be consistent week in and week out. You can't just run 40 yards one week and then have a hig week the next.'

One other thing in his life remains consistent — the devotion of his family. His mother, father, sister and brother will be at

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(Armstrong 12), Toronto 23 (Stoudamire 7),
New Jarsey 26 21 18 9 6— 38

Mew Yerk 26 14 21 19 7- 89

N.L.:Cassell 11-26 11-14 34. Van Horn 4-14

2-3 12; N.Y.: Johnson 9-19-6-9-24. Houston 719 6-0 14. Rebounds—New Jersey 56

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Assists—Chicago 20 (Horper, Brown 4),
Mitani 24 (Hordway 13).
Assists—Chicago 20 (Horper, Brown 4),
Mitani 24 (Hordway 13).
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P. McDyess 9-18-48 22 Chappson 7-17-1-4

15; M: Gugliotta 9-19-3-4 21, Marbary 5-16-6

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EUROLEAGUE

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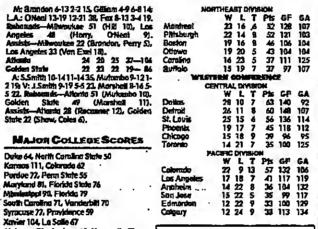
MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES Duke 64 North Carolina State 50 Kansos 111, Colorado 62

Pordue 77, Perm State 55 Maryland 81, Fiorida State 76 Mississippi 91, Fiorida 79 South Carolina 71, Vanderbill 70 Xovier 104, La Salle 67

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Period: T-O.King 9 (Sundia, Gustaisson)
(po). 6. T-Ciccarrell 10 (Norton, Bonsignore) 7.
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on good: T- 8-9-11—27. T- 10-17-9-36.
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Dallas
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Third Period: O-Murroy 2 (Zhobok) 2. O.,
Arvedson 4. (an). Shots on goot: O- 2-610—17. O- 10-10-14—34. Geodies: O-Rhodes.
D-Tyrok.
Florids

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Edisentos 0 1 2—3 First Period: None. Second Period: E-Undgren 10 (Smyth: McGillis) 2 F-Whitney 17 (Svehla, Sheppard) (pp). Tahrd Period: F-Whitney 18, 4, E-Smyth 14 (Homatis, Weight) (pp). 5, E-Weight 14, Shobs on god: F- 45-12—21. E- 9-18-12—39. Godies: F-Vanhiesbrouck. E-Joseph.

(Picard Atcheynum) Shats on good: S.L.- 8-5-6—19. V- 5-7-3—15. Goodles: S.L.-McLennon.

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US. 6-0 6-3. Cedric PioPne, France, det.

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A-Korlya B (Drury) Taird Period: A-Drury 5
(Doignecolt) A-B Brown 4 (Smehlill, Sorian)
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CALVIN AND HOBBES

NOT ME.

HOBBES, I'M YOU GOT YOUR

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Janathan Stark, US, 6-4-6-3, Pierce/Ploline, France, def. Rubla/Stark, US, 6-4-7-6 (7-3). SPAIN 2. SWEDEN 1

Azontos Sonchez Vicario, Spain, del Asa Carisson, Sweden, 6-1, 6-2. Thomas Enqvist, Sweden, def. Carlos Moya, Spain, 6-4, 6-1, Moya and Sanchez Vicarlo def. Enqvist and Carleson 6-3, 4-4.

SLOVANA 2, AUSTRALIA 1 Korina Habsudova, Slovakia, del Annabel Burod, Australia, 6-3, 6-3, Pul Roffer, Ausmila, def. Korol Kucera, Slovakia, 7-6 (7-3). Ellwood 7-5, 6-2

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HARD-THURSDAY IN GOLD COAST AUSTRALIA

Sylvia Pilischka. Austria, def. Mariaan de Shi-Ting Wong, Tolwon, del. Ruxandra Dra-gontic, Romania. 6-3 5-7 6-3. Al Sugiyama, Jogan, def. Sarah Pitkowski, France, 6-0 7-5.

TRANSITIONS

SAY "BANANA" IN MORSE.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE—Agreed ferms with INF P.J.
Fortes, INF Attich Simons, RHP Kevin Goliober, LHP Doug Johns and DF Scott Lydy on minor-league control.

minor-teague commocs.
CLEVELAUP—Agreed terms with 2B Cortes
Gazcia on minor-league contract. Sold RHP
Travis Driskill to the Yokult Swallows. JCL.

Travis Driskill to the Yokult Swallows, JCL.
OAKLAND—Named Larry Davis head trainer and Stephen Sayles assistant frainer.
SEATTLE—Agreed terms with IJF Glanallen
Hill on minor-league contract.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
ARIZONA—Agreed terms with LHP Omor
Doal on 1-year contract.
ATLANTA—Agreed terms with LHP Pedra
Barbon on 1-year contract.

SORRY I

nich i wasaki on minor-league contract,
Agreed terms on 1-year contracts with LHP
Mike Remilinger and RHP Keith Glauber.
LA. DDBGBS—Agreed terms with DF
Thomas Heward on inhor-league contract,
MONTREAL—Agreed terms with DF Derrick
MANY on vitar league contract.

May on minor-league contract, PITTSBURGH—Bought contract of 12 David Kennedy from St. Paul, NJ, and assigned him to Nashvine, PCL.

SAN DIEGO—Agreed terms with LHP Mark Langeston on minor-league contract, ST. LOUIS-Agreed ferms with RHP Kent BASKSTRALL NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

BOLDEN STATE-Put G Muggsy Bogues on MILWAUKEE-Woived G Tony Smith POOTRALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DALLAS-Signed OL Lurry Allen to 6-year

Ross, OT Dwalne Robinson and S Trey Thomas. KARSAS CITY—Named Jimmy Raye offen-

HOCKEY LEAGUE ANAHEIM-Sent C Matt Collen and O Mike

Crowley to Cinckingti, AHL.

Boston—Sent C Cameron Mann to Prov-Idence, AHL. CALBARY-Assigned C Jim Dowd to Soint

COLLEGE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE—Announced res-gration of Wright Waters, commissioner. GEORGIA STATE—Announced Junior Dusketball C Brad Stricker has transferred from

Named Lais Tiant baseball cooch.

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POSTCARD

Boom in Creepy Type

By Phil Patton New York Times Service

TEW YORK — Medieval quality of twisted ironwork than of Amazon monkeys. and ruined priories, a strange Now, references to Helvetica family of typefaces has or Univers sprinkle cocktail moved from the graphic avparties. And the names inevant-garde to mainstream advertising and packaging.

Inspired by Jonathan Barnbrook's 1992 typeface called "Manson," lettering that at once evokes a poster for "The Omen" and the Irish Book of Kells figures in ads for the sporty new Lex-

us GS sedan. The telltale letters in these typefaces are the O's — either surrounding a small diamond, or superimposed with a cross that looks like the hairs of a gun sight — and T's that look like crosses to deter vamnires.

The Manson fonts are not just for car ads. Similar type decorates the "Standing Stone" CD, Paul McCartney's 1997 venture into orchestral music, suggesting something primal, runic and far more important than pop - part Druid and part Gregorian. It also shows up in a paperback book covers and videotape packages, the crossed-over O's, the bodkin T's and the scythe-edge C's subliminally signal stories in the tradition of "The Exor-cist" or "The Relic."

On screen, similar letters show np in credits and titles, subversive "garage fonts." conflating time periods into one common distant and dangerous era. The titles for the movie "Bravebeart" placed Mel Gibson's Scottisb insur- market to Generation X. They gents in the same neighbor- also risk seeming like stockhood as the mythological era brokers in the mosh pit.

Before desktop publishing and bit-mapped fonts, roost people had no more idea of the and spiky, and with the names of familiar typefaces parties. And the names inevitably affect the impressions of the letters themselves.

The name Manson sparked a debate in the magazine Emigre, the most influential journal among the younger '90s font designers. The cboice of name was

a provocative, pos-

sibly self-promoting act. In their new book, "Design Literacy: Under-standing Graphic Design" (Allworth), Steven Heller and Karen Pomeroy write that the whiff of Charles Manson makes the letters "kissing cousins of the swastika tattoo carved into Manson's fore-

head or the words 'helter skelter that were drawn in blood on the walls of Sbaron Tate's Barnbrook defended the

name, citing subliminal as-sociations with "mason" and "mansion," that related to the carved-in-stone quality of mix of high tech and Tolkien the face. Responding to criin computer games like ticisms, the Emigre fonts "Myst" and "Riven." On catalogue replaced the name with that of Mason. That such associative bag-

gage as Manson and its kin should be smuggled into mainstream corporate design is only the latest stage in Madison Avenue's dabbling in semi-underground, slightly

When Fortune 500 companies grab onto twisted and blurry typefaces, they try 10 sbow how hip they are as they

Toni Morrison on Race (or Maybe Not)

By David Streitfeld ungton Post Service

TORINCETON, New Jersey — So, Toni Morrison. You're the first writer in English since Hemingway to win the Nobel Prize and ture — to have your work stacked up in warehouse discount clubs and New Jersey Tumpike rest stops.

At 66, you're at the peak of your

over "Amistad" seem muted.
In an era when many good novelists feel neglected, you receive first." That's the blunt first senreceive honorary degrees and serve tions race so directly again. on government commissions, than could be dealt with by a whole shelf

moral authority.

But are you bappy? Morrison laughs a bit and sighs at the same time. "That's really irrelevant," she says, picking at a croissant in ber office at the university here. "What is all this run-ning around after happiness? It's very American, and very boring. Why don't we just do something constructive, something creative, and then if that makes us bappy, fine. If it doesn't, at least we still have tilled the garden, baked the couldn't take care of themselves,

the Nobel, goes on sale in the rushing out its review so it can beat a segment; other television shows are lining up. The publisher expects to sell hundreds of thousands of know about a person." copies in the next couple of weeks

- terrific for any novel, close to an uncomomisingly literary work.

The critics will decide if "Para-

dise" is Morrison's best book, but it's a safe bet that none will call it her simplest. The tale reaches back yet be firmly anchored in mass cul- a century and roams over the country but mostly takes place in a small Oklahoma town in 1976. It would be tempting to say this is a major novelist's take on what is frepowers. Your best-known novel, quently billed as the toajor issue 'Beloved," will be released as a confronting America today, the one big-budget movie next fall, un- we discuss all the time yet never doubtedly sparking a re-examination really talk about. Except for one of slavery that will make the noise thing: The whole point of the novel

more requests to lecture, to read, to tence of "Paradise," but a chasm be interviewed, to participate on separates these six words from the panels and attend conferences, to rest of the novel, which never men-

"They" are the men from the isolated hamlet of Ruby, convinced that a handful of free-spirited wom-No other contemporary writer en living in a former convent are has your formidable presence, your the source of all their troubles. The proud history of Ruby is given, as is the background of each of the women — a mother who acciden-tally let ber children suffocate in a car, a confused teenager. At the very end, the story circles back to the rampaging men. Only a very clever reader will be able to figure out which one of the women is the white girl. The others are black.

Morrison explains what she is up to: "The tradition in writing is that if you don't mention a character's race, be's white. Any deviation bread, took care of somebody wbo from that, you have to say. What I wanted to do was not erase race, but force readers either to care about it or see if it disturbs them that they don't know. Does it interfere with the Nobel, goes on sale in the the story? Does it make you un-United States this week, This is the comfortable? Or do I succeed in novel as cultural event: Newsweek making the characters so clear, their interior lives so distinctive, Time, which is talking cover for that you realize (a) it doesn't mat-next week. "60 Minutes" is doing ter, and (b), more important, that when you know their race, it's the least amount of information to

It's possible to read "Paradise"



Novel as cultural event: Morrison's seventh comes out this week.

as exploring several sharp conflicts: the religious town vs. the "pagan" convent, those who worship money vs. those who don't, the Rnby men vs. the convent women. Morrison acknowledges that friends have already accused her of "having demonized some lovely people.

Meaning the men of Rnby?
"They didn't say that in front of my face. But they said, 'This is a strongly feminist book, isn't it?' Meaning: 'You're championing the women versus the men.'

She insists; "I don't have an agenda. All I have are questions. Everything is very complicated. Yes, is could be that I could be understood to be saying that patriarchy is bad and matriarchy is good. In fact, I don't believe either of those things. I Which leads to her biggest worry

about the book's reception. Ruby is an ali-black community, a town that has purposefully and successfully isolated itself from the world. It's the perceived threat to this security, the attempt to make sure that "nothing inside or out rots the one all-black town worth the pain," that leads the men to attack the women, 'I'm fearful they'll talk about it as a book about racist black people," says Morrison. "You think they'll do that to me?" She chuckles.

Writers passionately hate to be stuck in categories. It would be unseemly, therefore, to tag Morrison, the epitome of commercial and critical success, a "black nov-

Except she's always wanted it-

great American novelist, she would think, Ha, they're trying to say I'm not black. For her, the way into the larger tradition of literature was and is through the African American door, and she wants to make that debt explicit.

This desire is tied up with the Bill Moyers Question, which he asked in a televised interview in 1989: "Is it conceivable you could write a novel in which blacks are

not at center stage?"
"Absolutely," Morrison responded. But she knew what the question really meant. Are you ever going to write a book about white people? It was, in a sense, a compliment. You write well enough, I would even let you write about me.

It's not so much that she writes about blacks. It's that her books have few whites in them. Their primary concern is not men, either. The archetypal Morrison moment occurs in her second novel, "Sula" (1974), when the title character and her friend Nel discover they are neither white nor male, and that all freedom and triumpb were forbidden to them, they bad set about creating something else to be."

The white male center of the

culture gave ground only grudgingly. No one ever rold Solzbenitsyn: "So, enough with these gloomy Russians already. When are you going to write a novel set in Vermont?" But Morrison has fielded criticism like that for mucb of her career.

In the New York Times Book Review in 1977, Reynolds Price wrote that one of the few problems with Morrison's breakthrough epic
"Song of Solomon" was "the understandable but weakening omission of active white characters.' You can't tell the story of the American racial tragedy from just

one side of the color lines, he felt. Bnt 20 years later, Price says be has changed his mind: "I don't feel that need anymore. Her own imaginative world bas proven itself to be a ricb and entirely inclusive view of the human race.

CARS

Havana and the Vintage Chariots of Chrome

By Joseph Giovannini New York Times Service

HAVANA — In the exot-ic-car sweepstakes, even the bulletproof, see-through popernobile will have competition when the pontiff visits Cuba on Jan. 21. No country, not even a state of mind like Los Angeles, has a more nostalgic collection of post-World War II American cars than Cuba, to judge by the two- and three-tone specimens that time and history have left behind and running on the dilapidated streets of

Detroit's days of glory coincided with Havana's nights of glamour, when men smoked status eigars and sported cars with majorleague fins. Those muscular American cars now strut their whitewalls against the peeling backdrop of the once ricb and handsome capital. These trophy autos are stranded in a threadbare city, the talismans of one culture thriving conspicuously in another.

The men wbo own these private cars (and in Cuba, they are almost exclusively a man's thing) dote on their chromed prizes; yet, Havana itself is architecturally exhausted, the signs of deep, sustained eco-nomic crisis and an ambivalence about property written on nearly every facade. The cars are pre-

served; the buildings are crumbling.

With a Latin flare for architecture. 20th-century Havana fostered bold strokes of modernism in the heart of the city, and in the new suburbs spawned by the car. Architects shared with Detroit an optimism about progress through design, and with carports and double garages they made conspicuous room in their futuristic structures for aerodynam-grinning piranha, were popular then, and ically suave automobiles. Detroit's cars now, as well as sinuously streamlined had worthy buildings to cruise up to: car Chevys from the mid-'50s. "Cars of and house returned each other's com-

If the city is still largely intact, rather than hulldozed by developers, it is be- Chevys in Cubacause Fidel Castro has simply pursued a



Havana is a time capsule of the auto industry.

policy of benign neglect in Havana — though after nearly 40 years, the neglect

A visitor's eye splits its time between the sadly deteriorated facades and the chrome barges - Technicolor cars. driving around in a black-and-white

Hunky '55 Buicks, with chrome grinning piranha, were popular then, and Cuba" by Cristina Garcia, Joshua Greene and D.D. Allen (Harry N. Abrams, 1995) counts 5,413 registered

Then there are the monumental Ca-

dillacs from the stylisb decade when that pert and classy upright fin came attached, like a dollar sign, to a long series of subtly refined designs that conquered the known world. A Cadillac was a Cadillac was a Cadillac, but some sophisticates preferred the period's great boats, the Lincoln Continental four-

trophies that Lucy and Desi caded Malecon (the oceanside promenade, which today is nearly shopless), there are recherché specimens, like the Hudson Homets of the mid-'50s, or the even rarer Kaiser, with widow's peaks over the windshields, and bood and fenders stretched tight like an overenthusiastic face-lift.

Occasionally, one of the low-slung, snarky Raymond Loewy Studebakers — too mucb ahead of its time to be successful - rounds a corner, and once in a long vacation, the Avanti, Loewy's last Studebaker, makes a cameo appearance. As if to drive gringos mad, "woodies" (wood-paneled station wagons) are occasionally seen plying the northern coastal

For Americans, the cars may seem like collectibles, but for Cubans they are transportation. Many gas-guzzling geezers earn their keep as taxis, wedding-day chariots and tourist toys. Their owners keep them

going by cannibalizing other cars, including Russian jeeps. Hemingway's woodie from the '40s and his red Chrysler convertible, circa 1956, have long since vanished, but there is little doubt that their body parts have been recycled into cacharros (a term of endearment, loosely translated as "jalopies").

The tender loving paint jobs make it clear that sometimes a car is not just a car. The Yves Klein blue on a '55 Mercury is a color of love. Occasionally, the car is painted to match the house, out of the same bucket of paint. Look closely, and you often see brush strokes.

THE directors Neil Jordan, Oliver Stone and Bertrand Tavernier and the actors Dennis Hopper and Morgan Freeman will be among the stars making appearances at the 25th Brussels International Film Festival this month. They will be presented with special trophies, awarded to people who have made a lasting contribution to the film industry. There will be a special tribute to Hopper, who has been making and appearing in films since 1955, with screenings of 11 of his classics.

A man employed by the royal palace might have driven on the ar- charged with misusing the prince's credit card to by 700,000 kroner (\$100,000) in goods and services for himself, reports said Thursday. The man used the card of Queen Margretbe's youngest son to buy furnishings, clothes, shoes and wines for himself, the celebrity-oriented magazine Se og Hoer said. The man, identified by the Ekstra Blader newspaper as Finn Xavier Larsen, was fired after 129 days in the job and charged in February. In an interview with Se og Hoer, be denied any wrongdoing.

> Robert Carlyle, star of the hit film "The Full Monty," says he's getting so fed up with exposure in the press that he's considering leaving his native Scotland. Carlyle says the press seizes upon his every uttering, often distorting it, and he also complains of intrusion into his private life, such as his wedding last month. "I love Scotland, I love Glasgow," be said. "But the constant sniping makes it very difficult. If it becomes impossible for me to live something like a normal life in Scotland,

I could leave." Elton John, Marianne Faithfull and the Pet Shop Boys will headline a starstudded gala concert next week celebrating the centennial of the birth of the writer, actor, composer and dramatist Noël Coward. They're a little early— Coward was born in December 1899 bnt lots of names have already signed up for the Jan. 15 date. Profits will go to an AIDS organization, and the stars' combined efforts will go into an album.

Auguste Rodin's sculpture "The

PEOPLE .

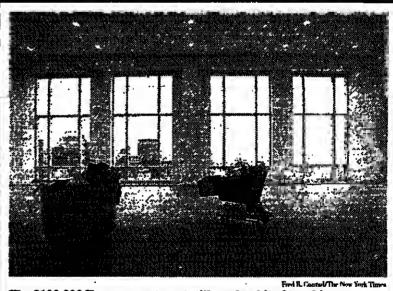
rejected there as too erotic. The marble statue of a naked man and woman entwined in a passionate kiss, one of four similar works by Rodin, had been given to the people of Lewes in 1914. But it was quickly returned to its owners, amid fears that it would inflame the passions of the town's youth, It was later sold to London's Tate Gallery in London. The Tate is lending the work to Lewes for a six-month exhibition.

Oprah Winfrey's show will go on mation lawsuit brought by a cattlemen's group. She will tape episodes of the syndicated "Oprah" sbow in Am-arillo, Texas, beginning Jan. 26, ber production company said, days after the trial's scheduled start. The cattlemen claim that they lost millions of dollars after a show that aired April 16. 1996, during which Winfrey discussed the possibility of "mad cow" disease breaking out in the United States.

About 500 sailing craft will gather in Rock En the South Atlantic resort of Punta Del Warner.

Kiss" is returning to a town in southern England nearly a century after it was Este, Uruguay, on Sunday for a cer-emony in honor of the French undersea explorer Jacques Consteau. The ceremony is timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the sinking of Cousteau's ship Calypso. "I've deeply admired Cousteau, who has arrived first at every port in the world where I've docked," Carlos Paez Vilaro, the organizer, said at a news conference. ousteau died in June at the age of 87.

All the attention Jerry Seinfeld bas received since disclosing that be will end production of his hit NBC sitcoto in Copenhagen to handle household from Texas this month while sbe is purchases for Prince Joachim has been defending berself in a federal defamedia. So it may be appropriate that American Express Co. will soon introduce a television commercial in which Seinfeld is paired with Superman. The commercial by Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide in New York, part of the WPP Group, combines live action with animation. It is being described as the first time that the animated Superman character will appear with a celebrity for advertising purposes. Rights to Snperman are owned by DC Comics, a unit of Time Warner Inc.; "Seinfeld" is produced by Castle Rock Entertainment, also part of Time



The \$100,000 Trump apartment still needs a bit of touching up.

The \$100,000-a-Month Pad

By Tracie Rozhon
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Welcome to this week's newest rental offering. Still undergoing last-minute touch-ups, it is priced at \$100,000. A month. If rented, Donald Trump's personal penthouse, at the top of Trump International Hotel & Tower at Columbus Circle — once slated to be the new home of Donald, Maria and Tiffany, now n casualty of separation - would be the highest-priced apartment rental in New York City. Ever, brokers say.

Yet, the Trump penthouse is by no means the ciry's only stratospherically priced rental. In the last year, there have been at least 60 rentals priced at more than \$25,000 a month, according to Corcoran Group; in 1996, there were only 21.

In these days of Wall Street bonnses and co-op board rejections, renting is an

increasingly popular choice. Just a year ago, agents were saying these types of rentals were almost nonexistent; now, agents complain, their only problem is finding enough of them for temporarily homeless millionaires. To meet the demand, developers are adding mega-penthouses to almost every new rental

Beatrice Ducrot of Stribling Associates said one of her listings, a \$27,000a-month prewar co-op rental on Central Park West with nine rooms and a handful of terraces, had "people lined up, three or four deep, but it rented in a day. These tycoons do not just wait around."

While these rental prices seem breathtaking, \$25,000 to \$50,000 a month for luxury three-bedroom rentals in Hong Kong is not unusual. In Palm Beach, Florida, a 1920s beach house is now being rented for \$100,000 a month, but just for the season. In Beverly Hills, California, and London, the ceiling is \$35,000 a month, agents in these cities say.

2 Paintings, Perhaps Stolen by Nazis, Are Held in New York

By Judith H. Dobrzynski New York Times Service

NEW YORK — District Attorney Robert Morgenthau has taken steps to prevent the Museum of Modem Art from returning to Austria two paintings from a recent show whose provenance is clouded by Nazi wartime plundering. He said he would begin a criminal investigation into the ownership of the

Morgenthau's move to halt the transfer of two paintings by Egon Schiele jolted many art professionals, who feared it would upset loan agreements

among museums around the world. Earlier in the day, Vienna's Leopold Museum, which possesses the paintings, had proposed the creation of an international fact-finding tribunal to examine the claims of two families who say they are the rightful owners. The Leopold

Museum said it would be bound by the tribunal's fundings. But the Austrian museum's olive branch did not satisfy the families, who insisted that the paintings be left in the United States as insurance

that the panel's process would be fair. Morgenthau, who was asked to investigate the ownership by one of the families, said, "We've opened an investigation and are taking steps to keep

the two paintings in Manhattan. He declined to comment further, but the issuance of a subpoena indicates that his office will take the matter before a grand jury where the paintings will be used as evidence. The subpoena could bar the return of the paintings to Austria, at least for the length of the investigation, which could take months if not

well over a year. There is no comparable instance in history," said Leopold Museum managing director Klaus A. Schroeder of

Morgenthan's actions. "This could rise up to a very big scandal, and I'm very

But the families reacted with joy, preferring to dwell on the development's implications for resolving ownership questions surrounding the tens of thousands of works of art that changed hands illicitly before and during World War II. The disputes bave spread to several countries and are growing.

"It's fabulous," said Rita Reif, an heir to a painting, "Dead City," a somber landscape once owned by Fritz Gruenbaum, a Jewish comedian who died in Dachau in 1940. "Now we can resolve what has been a half century of great loss. This will start a process that will be important not just to us, but to others who were victims or heirs of victims of property losses during the Holocaust." Reif, a former reporter for The New York Times,

still writes a column for the paner.

Henry S. Bondi, representing the other family, which claims "Portrait of Wally," a melancholic picture of Schiele's mistress, also applauded Morgenthau's action. "You know what Lenin said: 'Justice, good; control is

better. Others disagreed, however. "This is a polarizing development," said Constance Lowenthal, the director of the World Jewish Congress' Commission for Art Recovery, "I was sorry to learn

Lowenthal, whose organization was created last fall to locate and reclaim art stolen from Jews in the 1930s and '40s, had earlier hailed the Leopold Museum's offer as momentous. She called it "an important step, and I think unprecedented." She said she knew of no other instances in which the possessor of a disputed painting offered to belp organ-ize and be bound by a panel's decision.